'Transition president' in '04 gains ground in House

Story Below, Col.2

Abbas, Moro leader, dies; burial in Lanao

SCARCELY two months after the death of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front chief Salamat Hashim, another pillar of the Muslim liberation movement has passed away.

Macapanton Yahya Abbas, who belonged to the younger generation of secular-educated Muslim leaders that founded the Bangsamoro student youth movement in Manila in the late 1960s, died of heart

ABBAS/ A20

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GMA to lead Al-Ghozi hunt

President flies to remote Zambo town

By Gil Cabacungan Jr.

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo is preparing to fly to what she described as "no man's land" to check on the progress of the hunt for fugitive Fathur Rohman Al-Ghozi.

She herself disclosed the plan in a chat with reporters Wednesday night after the induction of the new officers of the Malacañang Press Corps, fueling speculation that the Indonesian bomber is now in the custody of military and police authorities.

The President said she would fly Monday to Jolo in Sulu and then to the remote town of Tungawan in the Zamboanga peninsula where, according to intelligence reports, the fugitive had been sighted.

"The government is hot on the heels of Al-Ghozi, and we will get him in due time," she said.

But she stressed that Al-Ghozi was "an isolated, tactical target" whose recapture had "nothing to do" with the scheduled visit of US President George W. Bush on Oct. 18.

Malacañang has repeatedly denied that Washington is demanding Al-Ghozi's recapture as a condition for Bush's eight-hour visit.

Al-Ghozi, serving a 17-year jail term for illegal possession of explosives, walked out of his high-security detention cell in Camp Crame along with two suspected members of the bandit group Abu Sayyaf on July 14. His escape sorely embarrassed the government, which was then hosting Australian Prime Minister

GMA/ A20

MISSION: Get Al-Ghozi. Army troops are intensifying their search in Siocon, Zamboanga del Sur, for the Indonesian bomb expert of the terrorist network Jemaah Islamiyah who escaped from a Camp Crame jail last July. AFP

GMA mounts one-month PR blitz for Bush arrival

By Juliet Labog-Javellana and Cynthia D. Balana

FOR THE WORLD'S most powerful man, President Macapagal-Arroyo will not only roll out the red carpet but will also lead a month-long public relations blitz to generate a rousing welcome from Filipinos.

She announced yesterday that she would take on the task, an apparent effort to counter the announced plan of militant groups to mount protest actions before and during the eight-hour visit of US President George W. Bush, including the burning of 100 American flags.

The President also announced that she had designated Ambassador to Vietnam Victoriano Lecaros as "the only

GMA/ A8

PAGCOR'S PROBLEM

₱120M spent on cars, over 100 new consultants hired

By John Nery

(Second of two parts)

An I-TEAM Report

MANAGERS at the Philippine Amusement Gaming Corp., who claim that the country's most profitable firm is in serious financial difficulty, say mismanagement is at the root of it all.

One branch manager identified four causes behind Pagcor's financial difficulty: "onerous" deals; a "surge" in new employees in the last two years; "profligate spending," and "massive, mindless" donations.

The INQUIRER is continuing its research into the allegations of anomalous contracts entered into by Pagcor in the last two and a half years. But data on the last three "causes" already suggest that the state gaming firm's operating expenses had jumped because of them.

Since Efraim Genuino, a close ally of First Gentleman Jose Miguel Arroyo, assumed office as Pagcor chair in January 2001, the gaming firm has hired more than 2,000 employees, the same branch manager said. Many of them are officers, he added.

Not true, Genuino told the INQUIRER. Only 1,250 new employees have been hired. He proceeded to itemize a break

P120M SPENT/ A10

Palace defends Pagcor chair

"I WISH to dispel any impressions that this institution is a so-called cash cow that is unaccountable to the people and can be milked at will by those in power. Pagcor is the source of social amelioration and relief for millions of Filipinos."

Thus did President Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday defend Efraim C. Genuino, chair and chief executive officer of the Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corp.

An I-Team report in the INQUIRER had alleged that the government's No. 3 source of revenues (after the Bureau of Internal Revenue and the customs) was in serious financial difficulty.

Genuino had strongly denied the report.

In a briefing, presidential spokesperson Ignacio Bunye said that Pagcor, the state-run casino monopoly,

PALACE/ A10

WALANG BABUYAN!

'Pidol' spoofs 'Pidal' in TV gag show

EVEN if the Senate ceases to hold hearings on the Jose Pidal issue, an opposition senator is certain that the controversy will continue to hound the administration through television gag shows.

And, Sen. Edgardo Angara said, the present occupant of Malacañang may just find herself "laughed out" of power in next year's elections.

Angara yesterday said he marveled at the way TV shows have picked up Sen. Panfilo Lacson's allegations that First Gentleman Jose Miguel Arroyo was the owner of dummy multimillion-

PIDOL/ A8

'Transition president' gains ground in House

By Carlito Pablo

THE PROPOSAL to elect a transition president in 2004 to pave the way for a complete shift to a parliamentary form of government in 2007 has gained ground at the House of Representatives.

But Rep. Jacinto Paras (Lakas, Negros Oriental) warned that "many congressmen will withdraw their approval for constitutional change if the agenda is to create a transitional move extending GMA's term." He was referring to the term of President Macapagal-Arroyo.

"Majority of Filipinos want to hold the 2004 presidential election," Paras said.

The Nationalist People's Coalition of businessman Eduardo "Danding" Cojuangco, the largest bloc at the House after the ruling Lakas-Christian Muslim Democrats, threw its support behind the proposal made by Speaker Jose de Venecia Jr. and presidential advisers Norberto Gonzales and Jose Ma. Rufino.

Lakas congressmen, for their part, pressed senators to allow amendments to the 1987 Constitution that will be submitted to the voters for approval in a plebiscite before the 2004 elections.

Deputy Speaker Raul Gonzalez (NP, Iloilo City) said there would be a "massive push" for Charter reforms starting October. He said people's organizations, religious groups and civic associations would demand immediate amendments to the 1987 Constitution.

The amendments will include transitory provisions that seek to allow the election of a President in 2004 for a three-year term. "The presidential elections as we know it will proceed as

TRANSITION/ A8

REUTERS

NEITHER BEACH NOR BUSH PARTY. The US Marines from the 31st Expeditionary Forces are not part of the advance party for President George W. Bush but are participating in the war games at Ternate, Cavite, on Thursday. Dubbed Amphibious Ready Group Exercise '03, it involves 1,500 American and 600 Filipino troops. The exercise aims to enhance the combat readiness of both forces.

Old soldiers never die, they just ...

By Juliet Labog-Javellana and Carlito Pablo

OLD soldiers never die, they just continue to fight coup attempts.

Coup plots are now consigned to the rumor mill, a confident President Macapagal-Arroyo declared yesterday after meeting with more than 200 retired military officers in Malacañang.

The President made the statement even as an unsigned letter from a group of soldiers warning her of her downfall was being circulated in military camps.

"Before the year is over, your administration will fall. We're tired of your promises," said the letter, a copy of which was sent to the President.

At the meeting, Ms Macapagal said the rumors were being fanned by the media. "Despite the intrigues in the media, I never believed that any general worth his salt would ever support an extra-constitutional bid for power," she told four associations including that of retired generals and flag officers, which pledged

OLD/ A4

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 19, 2003

E-mail: pr_news@inquirer.com.ph

Second FRONT PAGE

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Northwestern Luzon will have rains with occasional gusty winds and the coastal waters will be moderate to rough. The rest of the country will be mostly cloudy with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms becoming widespread over the Western section.
SOURCE. PAGASA

COMPILED BY: ARMIN ADINA, PDI RESEARCH/09/19/03

Metro Manila	Cloudy with rains	Iloilo/Bacolod	Cloudy with rains
Baguio	Rains with winds	Roxas	Cloudy with rains
Tuguegarao	Cloudy with rains	Cebu	Cloudy with rains
Laoag	Rains with winds	Tacloban	Cloudy with rains
Clark Zone	Cloudy with rains	Gen. Santos	Cloudy with rains
Tagaytay	Cloudy with rains	Zamboanga	Cloudy with rains
Legazpi	Cloudy with rains	Cagayan de Oro	Cloudy with rains
Calapan	Cloudy with rains	Davao	Cloudy with rains

GMA wants talks in October

DAVAO CITY—President Macapagal-Arroyo will push for the resumption of peace talks with the separatist Moro Islamic Liberation Front ahead of the October summit of the Oganization of Islamic Conference, the government's chief negotiator Eduardo Ermita said yesterday

The President is expected to take up the issue with Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad whom she will be meeting on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly in New York on Sept. 25, Ermita said.

The 10th summit of the OIC, which has also been helping to broker a peace deal between the government and the MILF, will be held in Kuala Lumpur from Oct. 14 to 16.

Ms Macapagal has been invited to attend the opening session of the OIC summit and will become only the fourth head of state outside the 57-member bloc of Muslim-led countries to attend a summit of the grouping.

Malaysia has been hosting exploratory talks between the government and the MILF.

"We agreed that the talks will resume within the month of October but we would wish that this is started before the President goes there [for the OIC summit]," Ermita told reporters.

Ermita, who heads the government peace negotiating panel, said Malaysian officials have said that the issue of setting the date for the talks would have to be cleared with Mahathir.

Peace talks were suspended in May when Ms Macapagal accused the MILF of harboring people responsible for a wave of deadly bombings in Mindanao.

The MILF leadership later publicly denounced any links to international terrorists, including the Jemaah Islamiyah regional terror network, and agreed to a truce as a precondition for resuming talks.

The MILF yesterday said it welcomed the President's initiative to speed up the peace process.

"Like everybody else, we are also willing to resume the negotiations as soon as possible. We also wanted an end to this long-running dispute," said MILF spokesperson Eid Kabalu.

He suggested the schedule of the talks might not be finalized until after the arrival of an international ceasefire-monitoring team here.

Malaysia has agreed to lead an international team to monitor a ceasefire between the government and the 12,500-strong MILF that was signed on July 18.

Kabalu said the delay in the arrival of the ceasefire monitors could be due to the delay in turn in agreeing the terms of reference (TOR) for the team and the government's allegedly snail-paced compliance with several other agreements, including the repositioning of its troops.

He said Malaysia and the Philippines have yet to finish the TOR, which would serve as a guide for the ceasefire-monitoring team although representatives of both governments have already started discussions. *With a report from Allan A. Nawal, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

GOZUN

DENR chief turns tables on accuser

SECRETARY Elisea Gozun is thinking of filing libel charges against a former subordinate in the Department of the Environment and Natural Resources who accused her of awarding a $2.6-million consultancy contract to a firm she allegedly co-owned.

"These are all blatant lies. The action of Juliano P. Nacino is nothing but his way of getting back at me after he was terminated due to my loss of confidence in him," Gozun said at a press conference yesterday.

Gozun refuted Nacino's claim he was forcefully removed from the DENR after he had objected to the awarding of the consultancy contract to Gaia South and its foreign partner, Environmental Services Australia-Overseas.

Nacino had claimed Gozun was a part-owner of Gaia South.

"Nacino did not resign; his services were terminated. I recommended his replacement to the President because of his unsatisfactory performance and my subsequent loss of confidence in him," said Gozun.

She said Nacino did not perform well as legal services head of the DENR, failing to efficiently dispose of the 630 cases pending in his office.

As for Nacino's charge, Gozun said there was no conflict of interest on her part as she had divested from Gaia South nine years before she was named to head the DENR.

The INQUIRER could not reach Nacino for comment at press time. *Christine Gaylican and Volt Contreras*

Ongpin cleared

FORMER TRADE Minister Roberto Ongpin has been cleared of culpability in a $65-million behest loan case filed against him and other ranking government officials during the Marcos administration.

In a 16-page decision penned by Associate Justice Godofredo Legaspi, third division chair, the Sandiganbayan said the Ombudsman erred in including Ongpin in the charge sheet in the face of insufficient evidence.

The case stemmed from a $65-million loan guarantee extended by the state-owned Philippine Export and Foreign Loan Guarantee Corp. (Philguarantee) to the Construction and Development Corp. of the Philippines (CDCP) in March 1981, which was allegedly facilitated by questionable endorsements made by Ongpin and then Central Bank Gov. Jaime Laya.

The loan was intended for the purchase of equipment for CDCP's Iraq Expressway Project.

The loans came from a syndicate of foreign banks that included the First National Bank of Chicago, Koering Bomog and Asean Corp.

Government prosecutors charged that Cuenca "exploited his close personal association with then President Ferdinand Marcos" to secure the loan guarantee. *Armand N. Nocum*

Ping's raps a face-saving effort, says Mike's lawyer

By Margaux Ortiz

"SQUID tactics just to save face."

A lawyer for First gentleman Mike Arroyo thus referred to a complaint reportedly filed against his client by Sen. Panfilo "Ping" Lacson before the United States Attorney's office in San Francisco.

Lacson was said to have filed racketeering charges against the First Couple and Arroyo's brother Ignacio, for violation of the Racketeer-Influenced and Corrupt Organizations Act.

In a press conference yesterday at the LTA building in Makati City, lawyer Jesus Santos said Lacson wanted to "muddle the issue" after failing to bring home evidence for his money-laundering case against Arroyo.

"He could not file a (formal) complaint here in the Philippines," Santos pointed out. "How much more in another country?"

Besides, he said, if such a complaint was indeed filed last month as reported (not by the INQUIRER), they would have received notification from the US courts by now.

Santos noted that it was the office of the US Attorney in San Francisco that prepared a "highly detailed" report on Lacson's multimillion-dollar bank accounts in America.

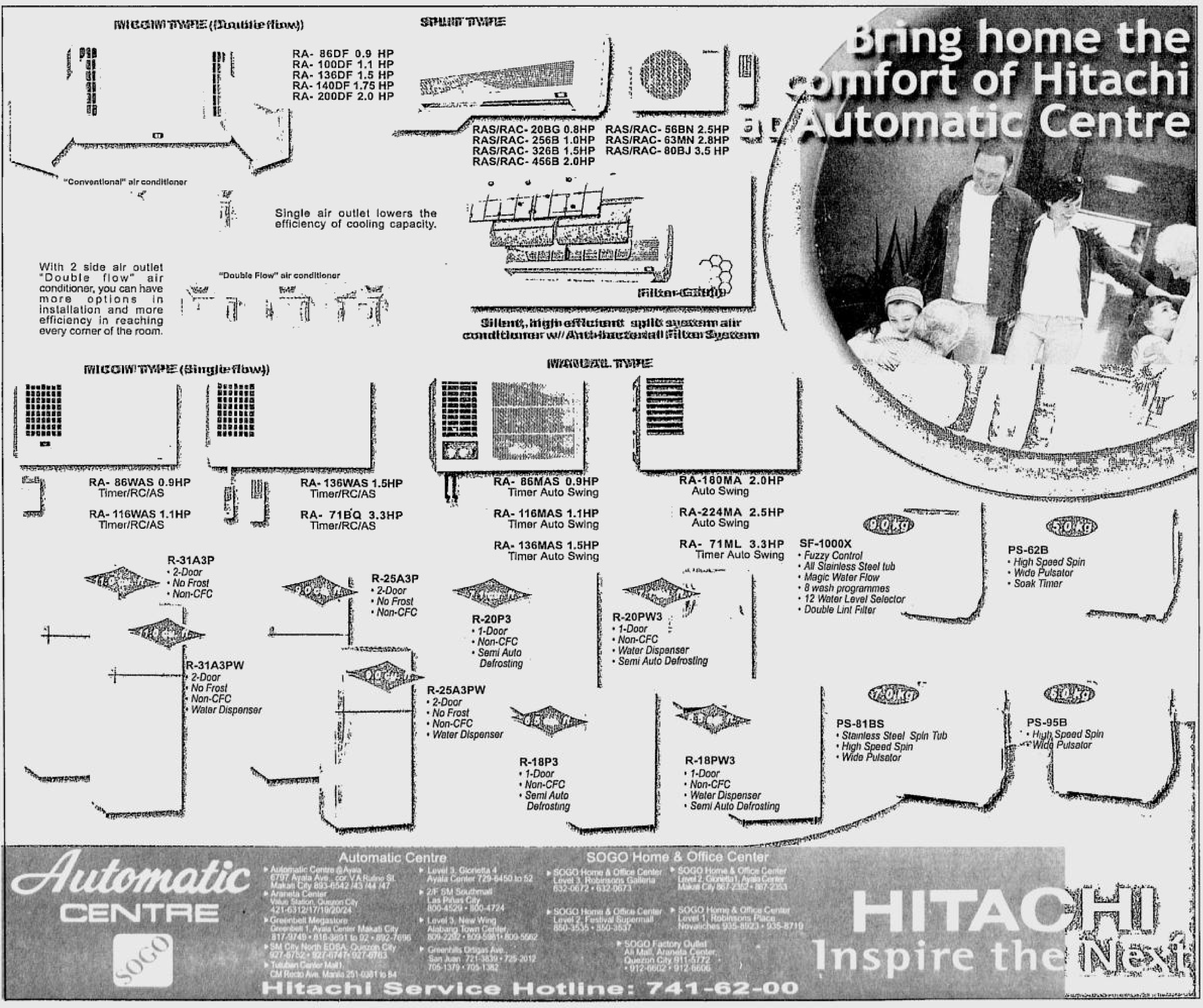
Armed with copies of said report, Santos concluded that Lacson was guilty of the very accusations that he had hurled against Arroyo.

He said the documents from the American government included a detailed report on six US accounts owned by Lacson and his wife Alice, with deposits from 1996 to 2001 that totaled some $1.1 million.

"Here is prima facie evidence presented to our government by no less than the US authorities, that Senator Lacson during his incumbency in the Philippine National Police... stashed away hidden wealth," Santos said.

He dared Lacson's spokesperson Lito Banayo to provide certifications proving that the couple did not own the accounts.

In a briefing, presidential spokesperson Ignacio Bunye said he was confident that "the people will see through this ploy." *With Gil Cabacungan Jr.*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34 priests suspended for sexual misconduct

THIRTY-FOUR priests have been suspended for sexual misconduct in a series of church reforms in this largely Roman Catholic country, a church spokesperson said yesterday.

"A bishop suspended 20 priests and another (bishop) suspended 14 for sexual harassment cases," the director of the church's National Office of Mass Media, Father James Reuter said. He would not reveal the identities of the bishops or the priests or disclose any details of the cases.

The revelation came as the country's Catholic bishops were preparing a protocol for dealing with the sexual misdeeds of priests.

Under a draft of the protocol —due to be submitted to the Vatican this month—priests who father a child or break their vow of celibacy may have to undergo some form of religious "rehabilitation." However, sources among the bishops said they are still deliberating over the draft.

Catholic bishops issued a rare public apology in July after two senior bishops were implicated in sex scandals. The Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines said it was sorry for the "actual or alleged sexual misconduct of some of its shepherds" as well as for cases of fiscal mismanagement by certain priests.

The Philippines is a predominantly Catholic Southeast Asian nation of 80 million people.

Recently, Novaliches Bishop Teodoro Bacani was accused of sexual harassment by his former secretary. He recently returned after a long vacation in the United States. A Vatican verdict on his case is being awaited. *AFP*

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Today's *What's News* questions:

1. "Bennifer" pertains to which Hollywood couple?
   a. Brad Pitt & Jennifer Aniston
   b. Ben Affleck & Jennifer Lopez
   c. Justin Timberlake & Britney Spears
   d. Ashton Kutcher & Demi Moore
2. What Sony Ericsson T610 feature allows users to connect laptops and phones without cable wires?
   a. Bluetooth™
   b. USB cable
   c. CD ROM
   d. DVD player
3. Which sport does not use a ball?
   a. tennis
   b. soccer
   c. fencing
   d. billiards
4. Which Hollywood actor is running for the position of Governor of California?
   a. Tom Cruise
   b. Arnold Schwarzenegger
   c. Jean Claude Van Damme
   d. Sylvester Stallone
5. Known as the "Star for All Seasons" and the current mayor of Lipa, Batangas
   a. Sharon Cuneta
   b. Maricel Soriano
   c. Nora Aunor
   d. Vilma Santos

Inquirer
what's news
TXT game

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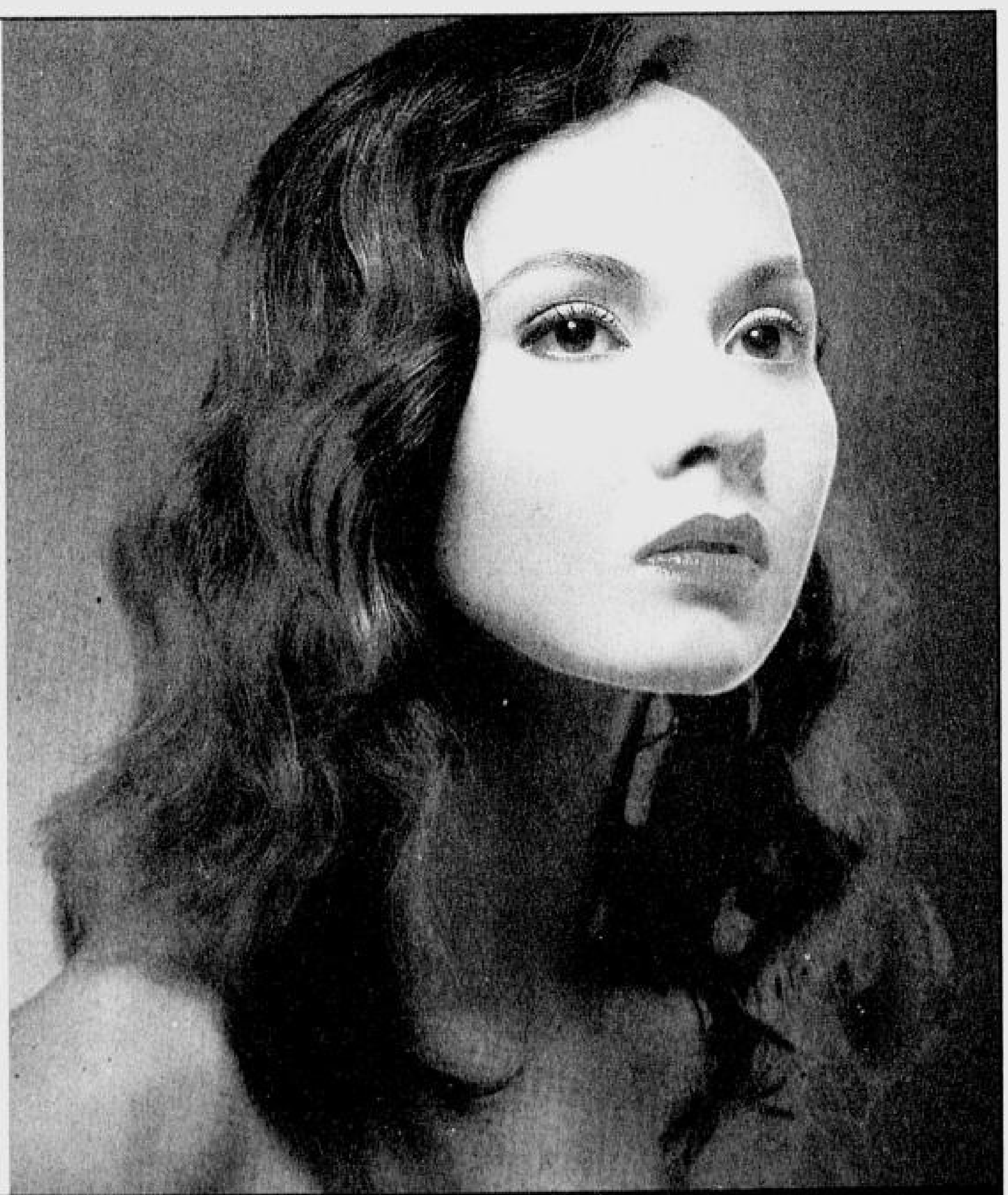

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OPENING HOURS
MONDAY-FRIDAY: 8:00AM-7:00PM SATURDAY: 8:00AM-5:00PM

FVR advises GMA to stop meeting every soldier, cop

By Jerome Aning

RAMOS: The President must also look after "left-out" concerns. AP

A PIECE of unsolicited advice from former President Fidel Ramos' to President Macapagal-Arroyo: You need not meet with each and every graduate class of the military and the police to assure their loyalty to your administration.

Ramos had this advice for Ms Macapagal yesterday after she met with more than 100 retired military officers from four associations, including the Association of Generals and Flag Officers led by his batch mate at the Philippine Military Academy, retired Brig. Gen. Ernesto Gidaya, a former ambassador to South Korea.

In a press conference at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport, Ramos pointed out there are "many important sectors in society who may feel that they are being left out by" the President.

Asked what the "left out" sectors he was referring to were, Ramos cited the small and medium business groups, trade groups, nongovernment organizations engaged in poverty alleviation, and youth groups.

"It's okay if that's her style and if that's the need of the hour. But what I'm saying is that she should try to touch base with everybody so that the so-called 'restless few' would be heard," Ramos added.

"I think that it's a matter of giving equal opportunity to all these sectors without showing favoritism," he said. But he quickly added, "But I'm not complaining; it's really up to her."

Ramos left for Hong Kong yesterday to help raise funds for research on the control and prevention of the dreaded Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome, sponsored by the Business Traveler Asia-Pacific Awards.

The former President also assailed the way local media have been slanting reports on the complaints of the military about corruption and their rumored attempts to launch coups.

He said news items of these topics "would do our society no good" and would only tarnish the country's image abroad and scare foreign investors away.

The former president said he believes Ms Macapagal has enough information to act correctly and properly on perceived "evils" in her government, such as graft and corruption.

But Ramos stressed that prior to the abortive July 27 coup, complaints on corruption that were aired by low-ranking military men need not have reached the President had the upper chain of command in the armed forces "monitored, discussed, remedied and prosecuted."

Old soldiers never die ...

From page A1

their loyalty to the President and the Constitution.

The support of the retired generals extended to beleaguered First Gentleman Jose Miguel Arroyo. They asked the Senate to stop its investigation of the Jose Pidal bank accounts, which opposition Sen. Panfilo Lacson claims were used by Arroyo to launder his wife's campaign contributions.

As the officers of the four organizations took turns reading their manifestos of support for her at the Heroes Hall, the President was all smiles.

"This meeting is providential," Ms Macapagal said in her speech. "After the rumors and headlines that may imply a rift between the retired generals and the government, the Lord timed (the meeting) for today so that the country can hear your expression of support."

The Last
Watering Hole Association

THE LAST hurrah for retired military officers is to express full support for the President and the Constitution. To the President's left is retired Gen. Ernesto Gidaya, president of the Association of Retired Generals and Flag Officers.

EDWIN BACASMAS

Leaders of the Association of Generals and Flag Officers (Agfo), which had the biggest contingent of 103 members, were reportedly conferring with the anti-administration Council on Philippine Affairs (Copa). At the meeting with the President, Agfo president retired Brig. Gen. Ernesto Gidaya rejected the call of Copa's Pastor "Boy" Saycon and William Esposo for the President's resignation.

Other organizations present were the Last Watering Hole Association led by its president, retired Col. Florentino Buenaventura Jr.; the Association of Brigadier Generals/Chief Superintendents/Commodore Pensioners (Abcopop) led by retired P/C Supt. Juan Gallardo Abuan Jr.; and the Federation of Retired Commissioned and Enlisted Soldiers (Forces) led by its vice president, retired Brig. Gen. Angel Okol.

Trillanes

Ten generals in active service joined the 103 Agfo members at the meeting, which was also attended by presidential adviser on the peace process Eduardo Ermita and Executive Secretary Alberto Romulo. National Security Adviser Roilo Golez delivered a message at the program emceed by retired Lt. Gen. Victor Mayo, Golez's deputy.

Forces and Abcopop called for the removal of mutiny leader Lt. Senior Grade Antonio Trillanes IV from the Philippine Military Academy Alumni Association. Trillanes, a member of the PMA Class of 1995, was the spokesperson of the soldiers who staged a mutiny on July 27 at the Oakwood Premier in Makati City.

Abcopop said Trillanes and his group disregarded, disrespected and trampled upon the chain of command and repeatedly called the President arrogant. It asked the President to recognize the group as "volunteer defender and preserver of the (AFP) chain of command."

The President accepted the retired generals' offer of help, saying they are an informal part of the chain of command "valued for your experience and counsel."

The retired generals know the meaning of service and sacrifice and are the moral force behind the soldiery, according to Ms Macapagal.

Taking a swipe at coup plotters, she said the armed forces must "learn to live in the longevity of ideals, not quick fix solutions founded on fleeting adventurism."

"Even before Oakwood, we moved with undeniable will to increase the premium for military service," she said.

Cleansing AFP, PNP

The President said more reforms were underway, including the cleansing of the AFP and the Philippine National Police.

"Today, we are moving more logistics, funds and financial autonomy to the field, and enforcing policy control, sound management of resources and untrammeled command efficiency," she said.

The President said she would expand the membership of the PNP Reform Commission tasked with overhauling the police organization following the escape of Indonesian terrorist Fathur Rohman Al-Ghozi.

She said one member could come from the ranks of the retired officers so that they could help come up with reforms in the PNP. "It is time to shake off lethargy and division and look to a new day," the President said.

But a group of soldiers said they were tired of the President's promises.

Addressing the President, the unnamed soldiers recalled that she had promised increases in mess allowance, combat pay and quarters allowance but none have been fulfilled.

Combat boots

They also mentioned the President's announcement that she was releasing P100 million for new combat boots but that they had yet to get a pair.

"Don't forsake us and we won't let you down," the letter said. "Even if the generals switch sides, we will support you."

The one-page letter written in Filipino said soldiers had already lost respect for their "senior officers" who they said hold the ranks of general, colonel, lieutenant colonel and major.

The letter informed Ms Macapagal that "several groups are courting us soldiers."

The letter was was also sent to Gen. Narciso Abaya, chief of staff of the Armed Forces of the Philippines, and all sergeant majors, who are enlisted officers directly in charge of fighting troops.

Rep. Prospero Pichay (Lakas, Surigao del Sur), chair of the House defense committee, was likewise furnished a copy of the letter that his office received on Sept. 17.

The soldiers also said they were distressed by the sorry state of the economy and the unremitting political combat between the administration and opposition.

"Don't wait for us to intervene or else you will all get kicked out from your respective positions," the letter said. "We are just observing now."

When sought for comment, Pichay pointed out that the government was doing all it could to improve the plight of soldiers. "There is no need for us to be alarmed by this letter," he said.

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HABEAS CORPUS PETITION

Mutineers' rights not violated, court rules

By Philip C. Tubeza
and Norman Bordadora

THE CONSTITUTIONAL rights of the Magdalo group leaders are not being violated by the restrictions imposed on their detention at Camp Aguinaldo.

The Court of Appeals, in dismissing a petition for habeas corpus filed by lawyers of the July 27 mutineers, said the conditions of their detention at the Intelligence Service of the Armed Forces of the Philippines headquarters did not violate their rights to privacy, counsel and freedom from cruel and unusual punishment.

The petitioners were Navy Lts. (s.g.) Antonio Trillanes IV and James Layug, Marine Capts. Gary Alejano and Nicanor Faeldon, and Army Capts. Gerardo Gambala and Milo Maestrecampo.

The six were the admitted leaders of the attempted coup at the high-end Oakwood Premier apartment-hotel in Makati City.

"Simply put, petitioners are not inquiring into the legality of their detention by virtue of the issued commitment orders. They do not assail the legality of their arrest," the court said.

"They only invoke the protection of their constitutional rights to counsel, privacy and freedom from cruel and unusual punishment, and pray that they may be released on the supposition that these violations render their detention illegal," it said.

The rebel officers' lawyers led by Homobono Adaza had filed a petition for habeas corpus before the Supreme Court. Included in the petition was a complaint that the young officers' rights were being violated in detention.

"While we do not undermine the fundamental right to counsel, we beg to stress that lawful authorities may implement safeguards in the form of reasonable rules and regulations, not only to ensure the safety of the detainees, but more importantly to prevent their escape," the CA said.

Although the court rejected their petition for a writ of habeas corpus, the officers' lawyers welcomed the CA's decision, saying it restored their constitutional rights while in detention.

Adaza told the INQUIRER over the phone that one of the reasons they filed the petition was to seek the restoration of the rights of the accused, such as regular visiting hours for their relatives and friends, and 24-hour access to their lawyers.

The mutiny leaders have been charged with coup d'etat and also face court-martial.

"For the moment, we welcome the decision. We have yet to decide whether to file a motion for reconsideration," Adaza said.

Yesterday, the Armed Forces sympathized with the families and friends of the Oakwood mutineers.

"The AFP acknowledges the pain and hardship being felt by the loved ones of the confined soldiers," the AFP said in a statement.

It made clear, however, that the soldiers and their families were now suffering the consequences of their action when they sought to overthrow the government.

DOJ to Gringo: File affidavit or see you in court

THE DEPARTMENT of Justice yesterday warned Sen. Gregorio Honasan and his co-accused to file their counter-affidavits on or before Sept. 23 or the DOJ will resolve the case based only on the police evidence.

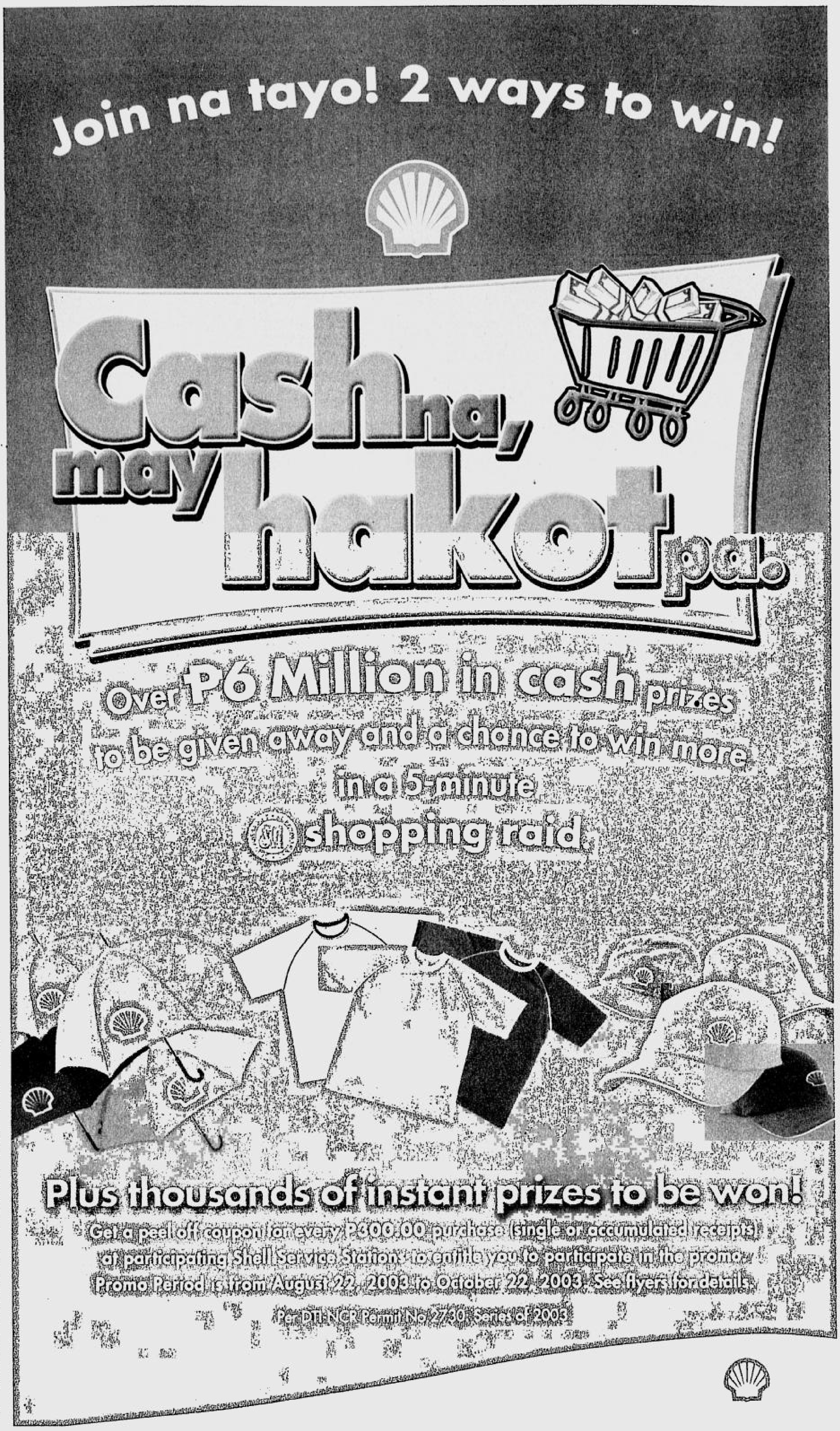
Honasan is charged with coup d'etat before the DOJ for his alleged rule in the July 27 coup attempt.

The other accused were Capt. Felix Turingan, Honasan's staff member George Duldulao, retired Col. Ernesto Macahiya of Bay, Laguna, a Col. Briones, a retired Col. Lazo, one Lina Reyes, and 1,000 other John and Jane Does, most of them members of the Philippine Guardians Brotherhood Inc. (PGBI), the faction of the Guardians that Honasan leads.

The DOJ panel of prosecutors handing the case earlier ordered Honasan and the other respondents to file their counter-affidavits by Sept. 23. The panel said it would also rule on the motion "to clarify jurisdiction" of Honasan lawyer Daniel Gutierrez when it issues its resolution on the case.

Justice Undersecretary Jose Calida hit Gutierrez's motion, saying that it was actually a "motion to dismiss," which is not allowed during the conduct of a preliminary investigation.

Philip C. Tubeza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AFP denies plotting to 'neutralize' leftist solons

By Cynthia Balana

ARMED Forces of the Philippines Chief of Staff Gen. Narciso Abaya yesterday assured the three party-list representatives of Bayan Muna in Congress that the military has no plan of liquidating or neutralizing them because of their leftist orientation, contrary to what was said recently in an AFP publication.

Abaya made the assurance before sub-committee "J" of the House committee on appropriations after he was grilled on this issue by Rep. Crispin Beltran, the only Bayan Muna congressman present in the hearing.

The other Bayan Muna congressmen were Satur Ocampo and Liza Maza.

The sub-committee was deliberating on the P43.5 billion proposed budget of the AFP for 2004.

Beltran said he asked around and learned that "to neutralize" in the military simply means "dead or alive."

Abaya explained that "neutralization" was a military parlance for killing. An example, he said, was the phrase "neutralizing an ideology" which means killing that ideology by replacing it with another ideology.

Beltran said the article about the neutralization of Bayan Muna and its three party-list representatives appeared in the "Ang Tala" issue of the AFP during the first quarter of 2003. It was written by a lieutenant colonel in the Army.

He said the article read: "While Bayan Muna's influence is within manageable level, the AFP needs to strategize how to confront this aboveground CPP-NPA party-list with a built-in propaganda work." It went on to name the three Bayan Muna party-list representatives.

The same article, Beltran said, recommended the following actions to the AFP hierarchy against Bayan Muna:

- Counter-organization against Bayan Muna
- SOP (standard operating procedures) for Bayan Muna through identification and neutralization of Bayan Muna.
- Massive information campaign about Bayan Muna
- Highly-organized and deceptive efforts of Bayan Muna requires special operations to be neutralized.

AFP vice chief of staff Lt. Gen. Rodolfo Garcia explained that it was not the intention of the military high command to silence the three congressmen.

He said the questioned article was actually a contribution from the Northern Luzon command (Nolcom) and just the personal opinion of the author.

Abaya said the publication of the adverse article against Bayan Muna was part of the soldiers' right of free expression.

Abaya, however, was chastised by Rep. Prospero Pichay, chair of the House committee on national defense, who virtually coached Abaya on how to answer the question correctly and to the satisfaction of Beltran and other congressmen present.

20,000 texters join What's News text game

THE RACE is on to win the techie package of every youngster's dreams.

In less than two months, almost 20,000 people registered to join the first Inquirer What's News Text Game, which ends on Sept. 24. Launched last July, the trivia contest promises over P1 million in cash and prizes.

Prizes include a Fujitsu Life Book P1120, a Palm Zire 71, Pioneer DVD Mini-Component EV-51, Sony CTV KVXA29N90, Sony Cybershot DSC P-77, and a Sony Ericsson T310 with CommuniCam as the grand prize. Thirty-five texters will also win consolation prizes of P10,000 each.

To date, more than 35 people have won the daily prize of a Sony Ericsson T100 mobile phone. There are six more of these units up for grabs.

Participants from as far off as Cebu, Negros Occidental, Ilocos Sur, Davao, Cotabato, Bohol, Iloilo, Zamboanga and Bicol have texted in their answers to daily questions found on the third page of the newspaper. Entries may also be earned by downloading Guyito (Inquirer's kalabaw mascot) icons. Every download gives each texter an easy 10 raffle points.

Reader's Club

As an added incentive, texters who earn 15 raffle points can be part of the newly-launched Inquirer Reader's Club, a community for the paper's loyal young readers. Aside from exclusive privileges to Inquirer events and youth programs, members also get to enjoy special discounts and benefits at various partner establishments by flashing the virtual ID stored in their mobile phones.

Says Inquirer president Alexandra Prieto-Romualdez, "Texting has already become an important tool in our lives. Through this contest, we hope to have made it more enjoyable and educational for the youth."

The What's News Text Game was launched to add a more interactive twist to Inquirer's award-winning youth readership program.

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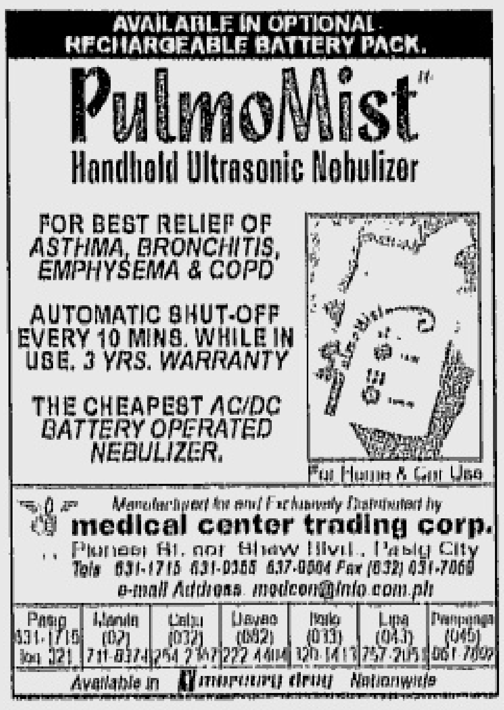
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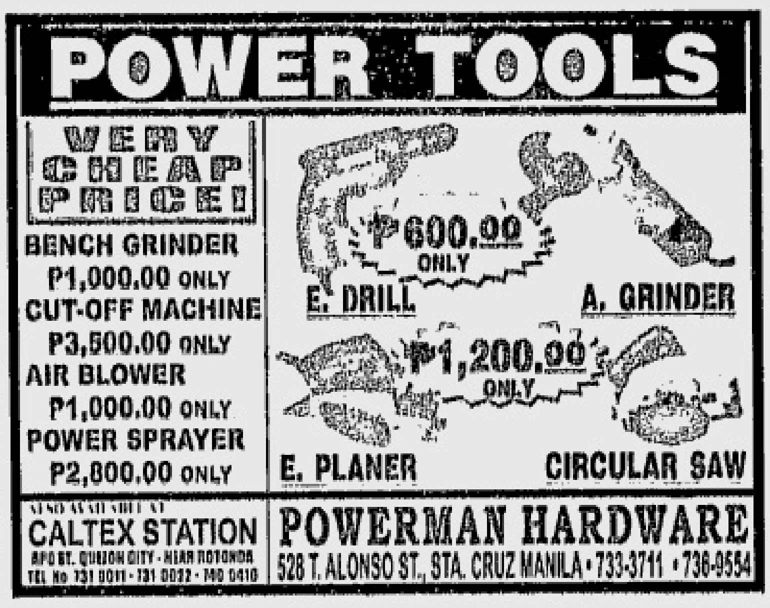
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Time running out on 7-M absentee voters

WITH 13 days left, only 167,634 out of 7.53 million overseas Filipinos have registered for the 2004 elections.

According to Sept. 17 figures released by the Overseas Absentee Voting Secretariat, more than half of the registrants were based in Asian countries—85,944—followed by those in the Middle East with 60,126.

Majority of those who registered in Asia were based in Hong Kong, where 60,685 Filipinos signed up.

The data showed that 16,350 European-based Filipinos registered from Aug. 1 to Sept. 17.

Overseas registration ends on Sept. 30.

In the Americas, which includes the United States, only 6,212 Filipinos registered. *Martin Marfil*

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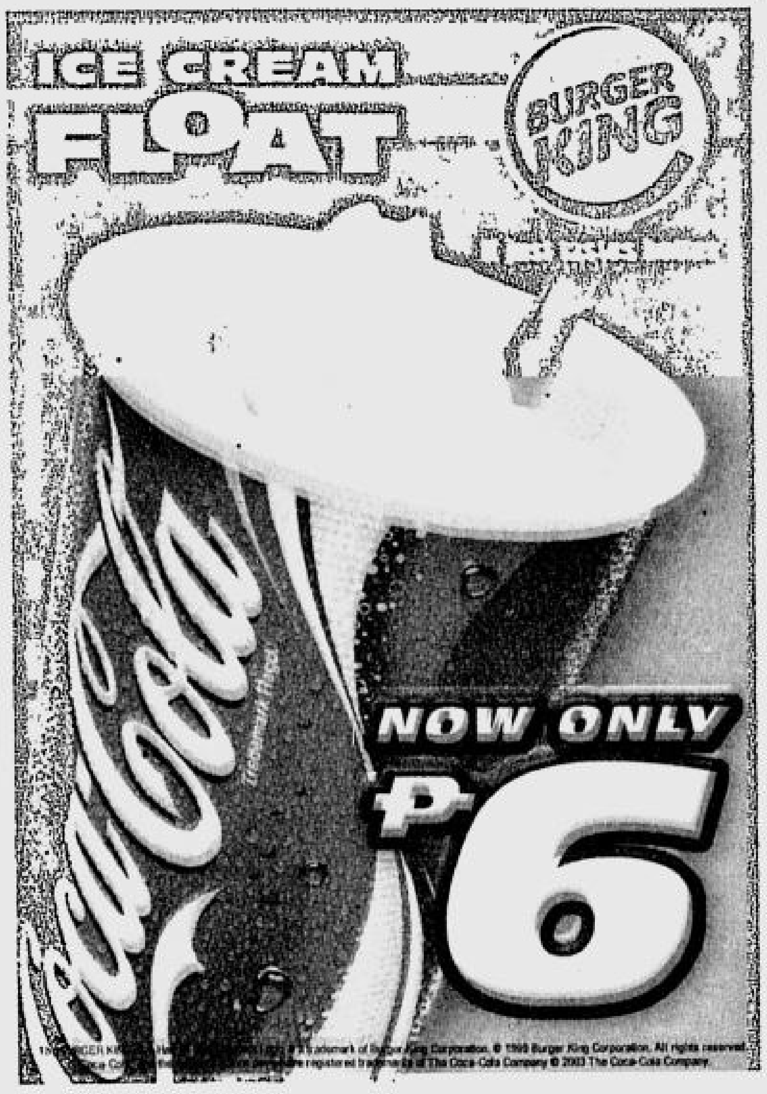

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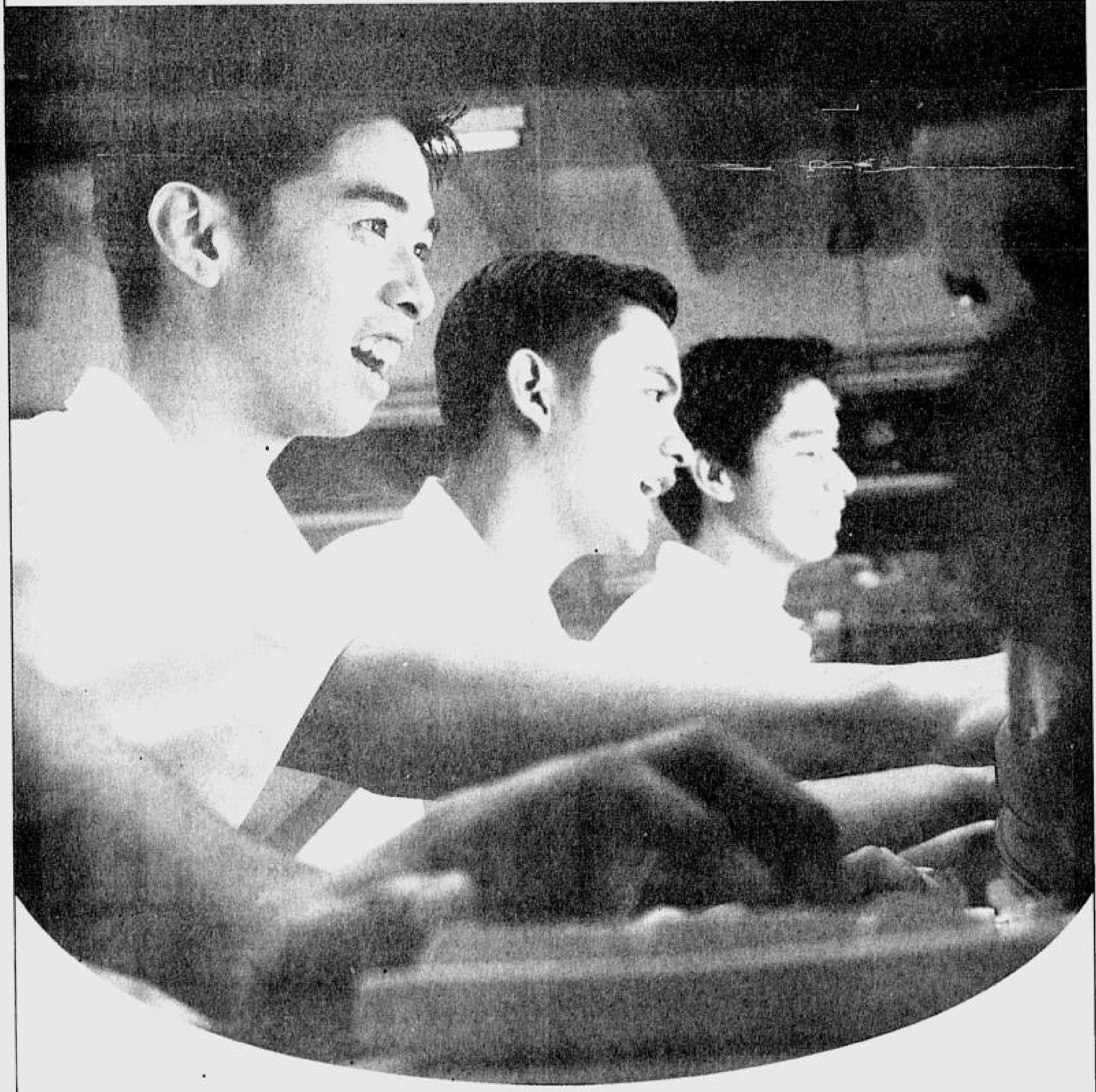

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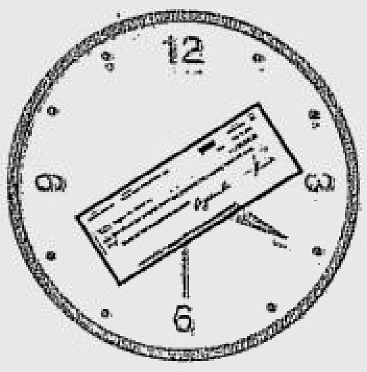

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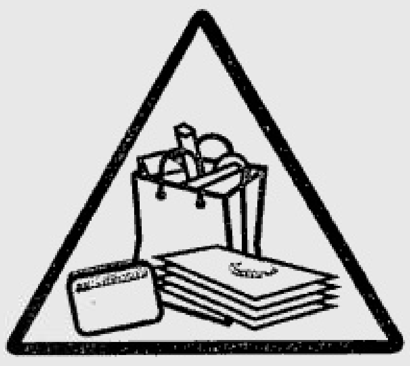

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OPLE ON BUSH VISIT

Show of support, yes; 2004 endorsement, no

By Gerald G. Lacuarta

THE VISIT of US President George W. Bush will be a show of support for the administration of President Macapagal-Arroyo, and not an endorsement of a second term for her.

This was stressed yesterday by Foreign Secretary Blas Ople to douse speculation on the significance of Bush's visit, which some politicians had linked to Ms Macapagal's supposed plan to stand for election next year.

"Some sectors impute domestic political motives to the visit of President Bush. These allegations are baseless," Ople told reporters at a briefing.

He said the visit was "not about manipulating events for election purposes, but about the further strengthening of our relations, [which] go beyond the terms of both leaders."

Ople said the support of the US government for the Philippine government and its leadership had been "clearly established."

"But this support should not be seen as relating to the decision of any leader as to his or her political future," he said, adding:

"There is more to our national life than politics. Some of our politicians should see beyond their narrow partisan interests and appreciate the many changes and developments in the world."

Bush's eight-hour visit will include a one-on-one talk with Ms Macapagal, an address before a joint session of Congress, and a state dinner in Malacañang.

Ople earlier said some agreements were expected to be signed. Militants had alleged that one of these agreements would give basing rights to US troops to be moved out of Okinawa, Japan.

Karen Kelley, spokesperson for the US Embassy in Manila, said the White House had not released official information on the Bush visit, such as the talking points between the two presidents.

"We have to wait for that before we can say what the [one-on-one] meeting will include," she said.

Ople said Bush's visit signified the depth of RP-US relations and the two nations' increasing partnership in addressing regional and global concerns of mutual concern.

"The progress and stability of our region hinges on the active engagement of the US in the region and how [it] deals with the major players in our region. This is why the visit is important," he said.

GMA mounts 1-month PR blitz for Bush arrival

From page A1

spokesperson" for the Bush visit.

For its part, the Philippine National Police is planning to use "rubber bullets" to quell protesters during Bush's visit, according to Ilocos Norte Rep. Imee Marcos.

"The new police guidelines are ill-advised, outmoded and the legality of such is highly questionable," said the eldest daughter of the late strongman Ferdinand Marcos.

Deputy Director Gen. Ricardo De Leon, PNP spokesperson, admitted to the INQUIRER in a phone interview that the possibility of employing this dispersal mode against protesters was very big.

But he stressed that the PNP had yet to formally accept delivery of the rubber bullets as well as the guns, after which the merchandise would still have to be inspected.

Ms Macapagal has, for several days running, been issuing statements extolling the supposed big boost that Bush's visit would give the Philippines at this time of political and economic woes.

Rhetoric not enough

But she said rhetoric was not enough. Thus, she said, between now and Bush's arrival on Oct. 18, she would visit US-funded projects and initiatives to "highlight the beneficial aspects" of the Philippines' strong alliance with the United States.

The projects include schools in conflict-affected areas in Mindanao—part of the fruits of her state visit to Washington last May.

Ms Macapagal said she would also personally observe the RP-US military training exercises in a still undisclosed location in order to make the people understand its benefit to national security and the Philippine military.

"We have forged a genuinely mutual relationship with the United States that transcends the colonial ties of the past," she said in her meeting with retired generals in Malacañang yesterday.

"The United States has also been a faithful ally in the modernization of our armed forces," she added.

Not hooligans

Congresswoman Marcos reminded anti-riot policemen that during Bush's visit, they would be facing their protesting countrymen, not hooligans.

She said the use of "less lethal weapons" such as rubber bullets during anti-Bush rallies could result in more casualties.

"I believe it's unnecessary and even dangerous," she said. "We have seen what these things can do. Israeli soldiers have used them against Palestinians, and it's an ugly sight."

A person hit by a rubber bullet is immediately knocked down, experiences difficulty in breathing, and may even go blind if hit in the eye, she said.

Marcos said the use of rubber bullets in addressing demonstrations was mentioned in the manual of PNP Operational Procedures.

She said she had sought clarification from the PNP Directorate for Investigation and Detective Management on three points: minimum necessary force, examples of less lethal weapons and ammunition, and the difference between a riotous stage and a violent stage of protest.

In a letter to Marcos last June 23, the PNP said the phrase "minimum necessary force" should be interpreted within the concept of graduated response to a situation. This is supposedly the current authorized norm in the conduct of operations, as opposed to the old practice of "maximum tolerance."

The PNP said rubber bullets were classified under "less lethal weapons and ammunition" that police may use during dispersal operations. Other such weapons, it said, were truncheons, tear gas projectiles, smoke grenades and water cannons.

It further said a riotous stage referred to that stage when demonstrators started to become unruly and a situation out of control was very evident. This stage is usually in preparation for the violent stage, it said.

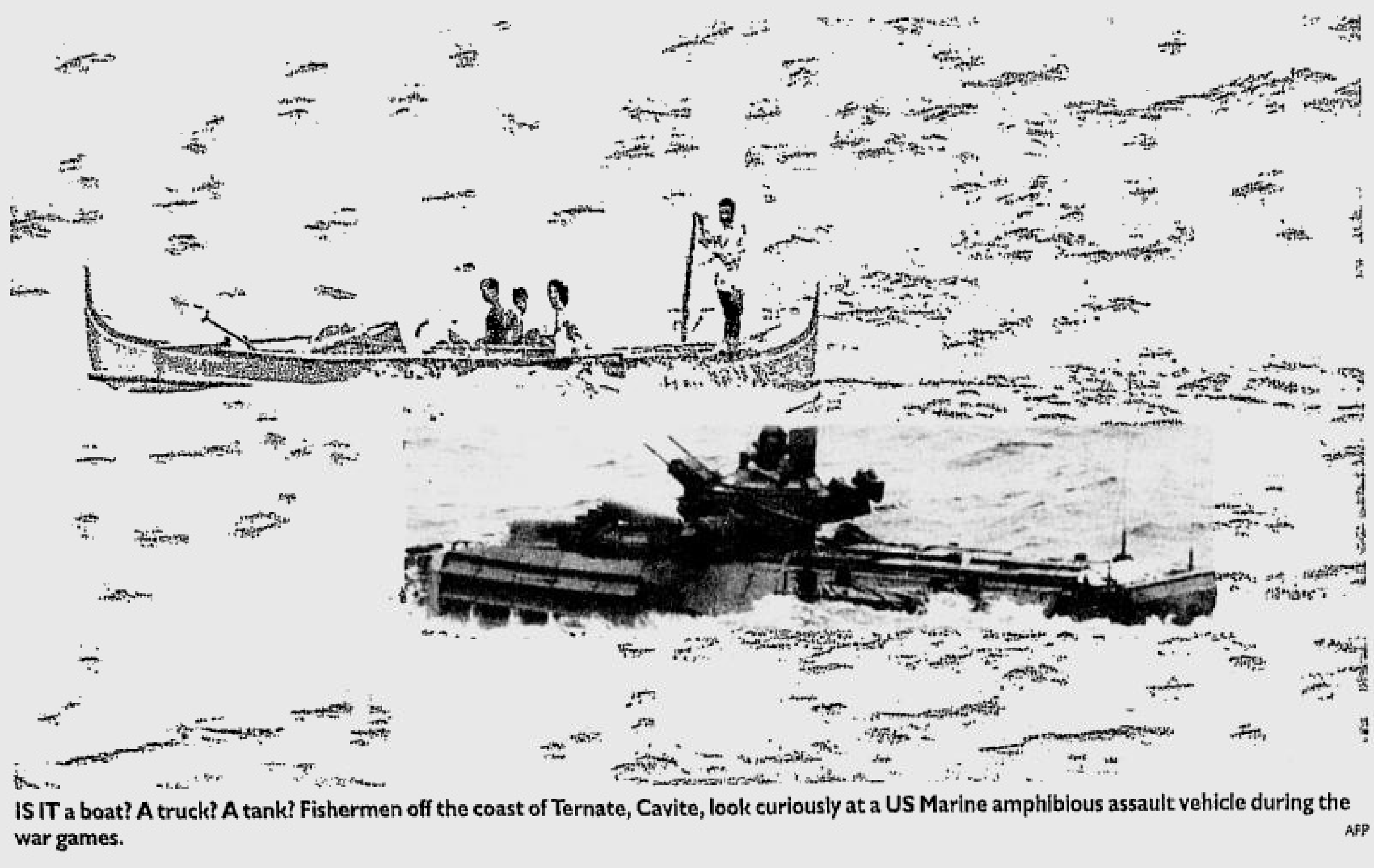
Busy Bush

As far as former President Fidel Ramos is concerned, Filipinos should be "happy" for Bush's eight-hour visit "and not begrudge the guy for not staying here longer."

Ramos said critics should not measure the success of a state visit, especially that of an American president, by the length of time he would be staying in the country.

"As the leader of the world's sole superpower, we all know he's very busy," Ramos said of Bush. "He deals not only with local concerns but also international ones such as terrorism, the war in Iraq and Afghanistan, the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, and so much more."

Ramos said Bush's visit was "a plus for Philippine security and economic growth." *With reports from Alcuin Valle Papa and Jerome Aning*



IS IT a boat? A truck? A tank? Fishermen off the coast of Ternate, Cavite, look curiously at a US Marine amphibious assault vehicle during the war games.

AFP

GMA answers 2004 query with a smile

By Juliet L. Javellana

INSTEAD of reacting angrily, President Macapagal-Arroyo flashed her enigmatic smile when reporters tried to elicit her comments on the endorsement of the ruling party for her to be its presidential candidate in the elections next year.

Ms Macapagal smiled and picked at her plate when the topic was brought up during cocktails on Wednesday night. The occasion was the oath-taking of new officers of the Malacañang Press Corps.

The President, who co-chairs the Lakas-CMD party with Speaker Jose de Venecia Jr., said she would not be able to attend the Lakas national directorate meeting on Oct. 7.

She would be in Bali, Indonesia, for the informal summit of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations.

Party leaders plan to endorse Ms Macapagal as party standard-bearer at the meeting of its national directorate a week before the state visit of US President George W. Bush.

The President's spokesperson Ignacio Bunye denied that the party announcement was being timed for the visit of Bush, who has reportedly urged Ms Macapagal to change her mind and run in 2004.

But Bunye said the President did not want to be distracted from her work by political issues.

Ms Macapagal announced in December last year that she would not stand for election in 2004. But her aides and allies have hinted that she would change her mind.

President confident Guingona won't help foes

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo is confident that Vice President Teofisto Guingona Jr. will not have a hand in moves to destabilize her administration.

Ms Macapagal said that while she did not meet with Guingona as often as she did with former President Fidel Ramos, she had no fears that the Vice President would join the groups out to sabotage her administration.

"He won't be part of any destabilization plot against me," Ms Macapagal told reporters at the oath-taking of the new officers of the Malacañang Press Corps in Malacañang Wednesday night.

Ms Macapagal appointed Guingona, then a senator, Vice President when she became President in 2001. Guingona earned the post by leading the opposition during the term of President Joseph Estrada, delivering the "I accuse" speech on Luis "Chavit" Singson's exposé that led to the impeachment trial and his ouster of Estrada.

She also named Guingona her foreign secretary but Guingona could not toe the President's foreign policy, especially with respect to the United States, and resigned the position.

Guingona earned the ire of some aides of the President when he said in a television interview last week that the Jose Pidal controversy involving the President's husband could lead to something more drastic than the July 27 mutiny.

Jose Ma. Rufino, the president's political liaison officer and Lakas national executive director, called on Lakas to impose sanctions on Guingona, the party president.

The President's confidence in Guingona, however, contrasted with Rufino's position. But she did not say whether she would name Guingona as government caretaker during her five-day trip to the United States and Europe starting next week. *Juliet Labog-Javellana*

'Transition president' in 2004 gains ground in House

From page A1

scheduled, including election for senators and congressmen," De Venecia said.

"Our suggestion, however, is by 2007 when their term expires, there will be a full shift to parliamentary system," he said.

"We are for it," Rep. Gilbert Teodoro Jr. (NPC, Tarlac). "The President we will elect in 2004 will be strategically important because he or she will build up the bureaucracy in preparation for a full shift to a parliamentary system."

Echoing De Venecia's proposal, Teodoro said that Charter reforms providing for a shift to a parliamentary form of government and the election of a president in 2004 with a three-year term ending in 2007 must be completed and approved by the people in a plebiscite before next year's elections.

"We have to start now because major reforms like these can't be done overnight," said Teodoro, the NPC head in the House who is also Cojuangco's nephew.

While there will be elections for president in 2004, the elected head of state will serve in a transition capacity to pave the way for a parliamentary shift, according to Teodoro.

"We are for Charter reforms," Teodoro said. "There is still time for the House and Senate to constitute themselves into a constituent assembly to introduce changes to the Charter."

Rep. Prospero Nograles (Lakas, Davao City) said: "Let's support the Speaker's proposal in public and ask senators to agree to it."

Senators oppose

Nograles noted that senators had opposed moves to convene a constituent assembly, the mode for amending the Constitution preferred by most congressmen.

Rep. Rodolfo Albano (Lakas, Isabela) said that De Venecia's proposal would be possible if amendments to the Constitution were effected on or before the 2004 elections.

"If the new Constitution takes effect, then why not," Albano said.

Lakas maverick Rep. Augusto Syjuco (Iloilo), however, slammed De Venecia's proposal for a transition president as a "bad joke."

"What? Another half-a-presidency? Unbelievable," Syjuco said at a press conference.

Syjuco said that a full six-year term for president as stipulated in the 1987 Constitution was the "major anchor for the republic's long overdue stability."

"From the inherent instability of transitional governance today, we will certainly be sent to burning hell with yet another transitional government which can not possibly survive," Syjuco said. He said a three-year presidency would be prone to destabilization and uncertainties.

'Pidol' spoofs 'Pidal' in TV gag show

From page A1

peso bank accounts under the name of Jose Pidal.

Angara said comedy king Dolphy and actor-singer Ogie Alcasid were among the TV stars spoofing Arroyo in their respective TV shows.

Dolphy stars in ABS-CBN's "Home Along D Airport" and Alcasid is one of the mainstays in GMA 7's "Bubble Gang."

In a "Home Along D Airport" episode, Angara said, Dolphy starred as Jose Pidol, a barangay captain who got into trouble when funds of the village went missing. It turned out the funds went into the Pidol account.

"The public now understands the issue and they now know who Jose Pidal is, it's Dolphy all along," Angara said during a news conference.

"So the lesson is even if the Senate inquiry on the Jose Pidal controversy will not proceed, this will be continued by Dolphy and other comedians," Angara said.

Laughed out of Palace

"Someone will be laughed out of Malacañang in May 2004," the opposition senator added.

Leaders of the Senate committees on public accountability, constitutional amendments and banks have decided early this week to proceed with the Senate hearings, possibly to resume when Congress reopens on Oct. 6.

Angara said the Senate "will now have to compete with Dolphy and Ogie."

Warning to artists

As for artists who impersonate the President, Justice Secretary Simeon Datumanong said they could face criminal charges if they do so in a malicious manner.

"Impersonating (the President) has its own limitations. If it goes overboard, then they will be subject to the penal laws of our country," Datumanong said.

"It's OK if it is done in good taste, if it is not libelous or criminal in intent. But if they're going into that direction and there is a complainant, then definitely there will be a case."

Sen. Aquilino Pimentel Jr. had earlier complained that some television programs showed artists who were impersonating the President in bad taste.

Datumanong said one gag show hinted that the artist impersonating the President had just performed oral sex.

"That one is definitely already traversing the norms of what is admissible. That is beyond bounds of normal commentary or acting," he said. *Reports from Norman Bordadora, Christine Avendaño, Philip Tubeza*

Haydee is back at PCGG

PRESIDENTIAL Commission on Good Government Chair Haydee Yorac is back after a battle with stroke and cancer.

Yorac is reporting for work at the PCGG office next week.

She told the four commissioners so when she showed up at the PCGG office on Tuesday.

"She's doing well and she had indicated that she will be reporting to the PCGG starting next week," said Commissioner Ruben Carranza, who was officer in charge for a time.

Yorac however could not yet come to work everyday, according to Carranza.

She is reportedly still under therapy.

Yorac suffered a mild stroke on Jan. 29 while in Malacañang.

Weeks later, doctors found a cancerous growth in her ovary that required surgery. In May she was in the intensive care unit for severe pneumonia and kidney malfunction.

Despite that, Yorac resumed working from her home in July.

PCGG commissioners would come to her house to discuss actions that needed her approval.

Dona Pazzibugan

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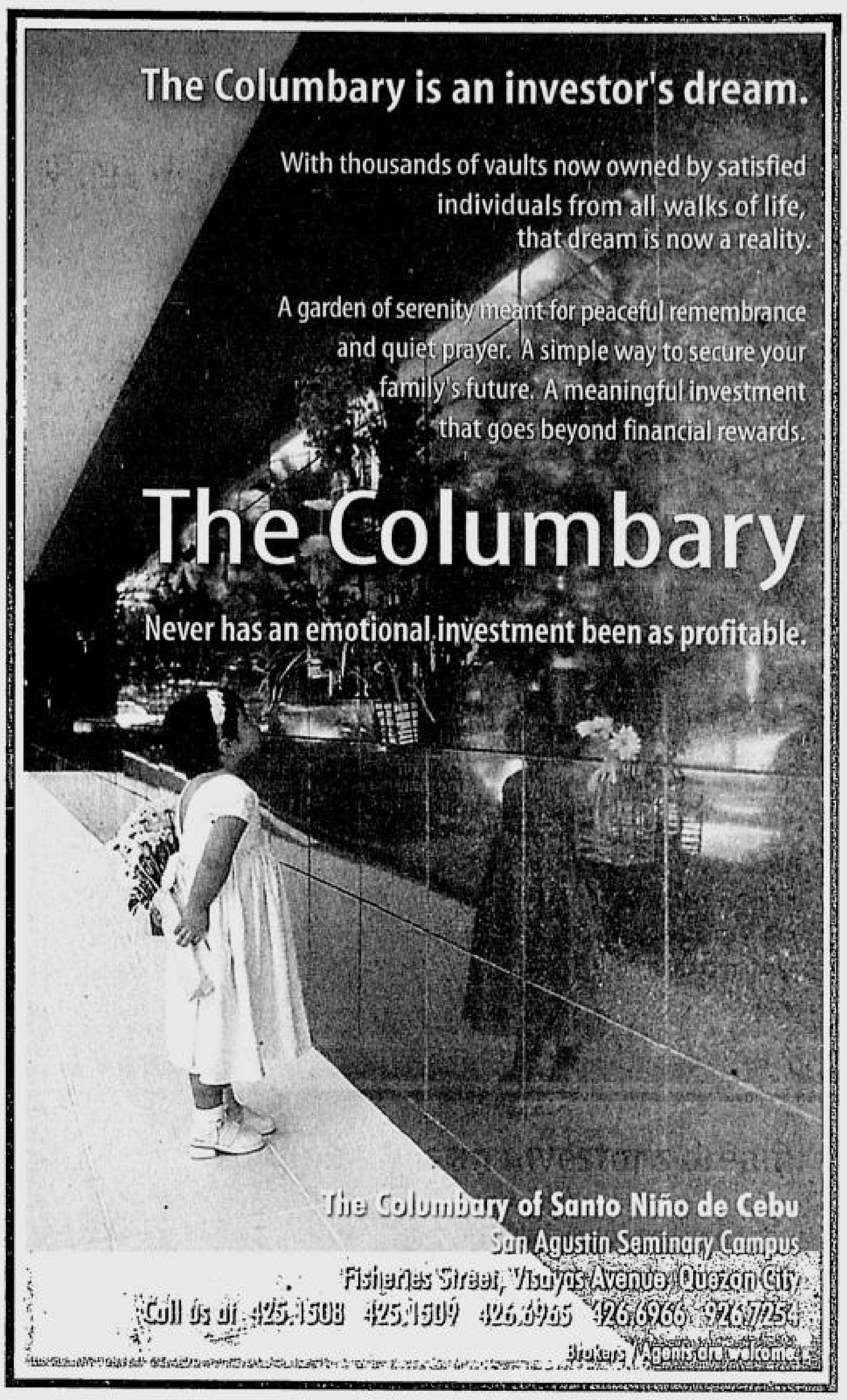

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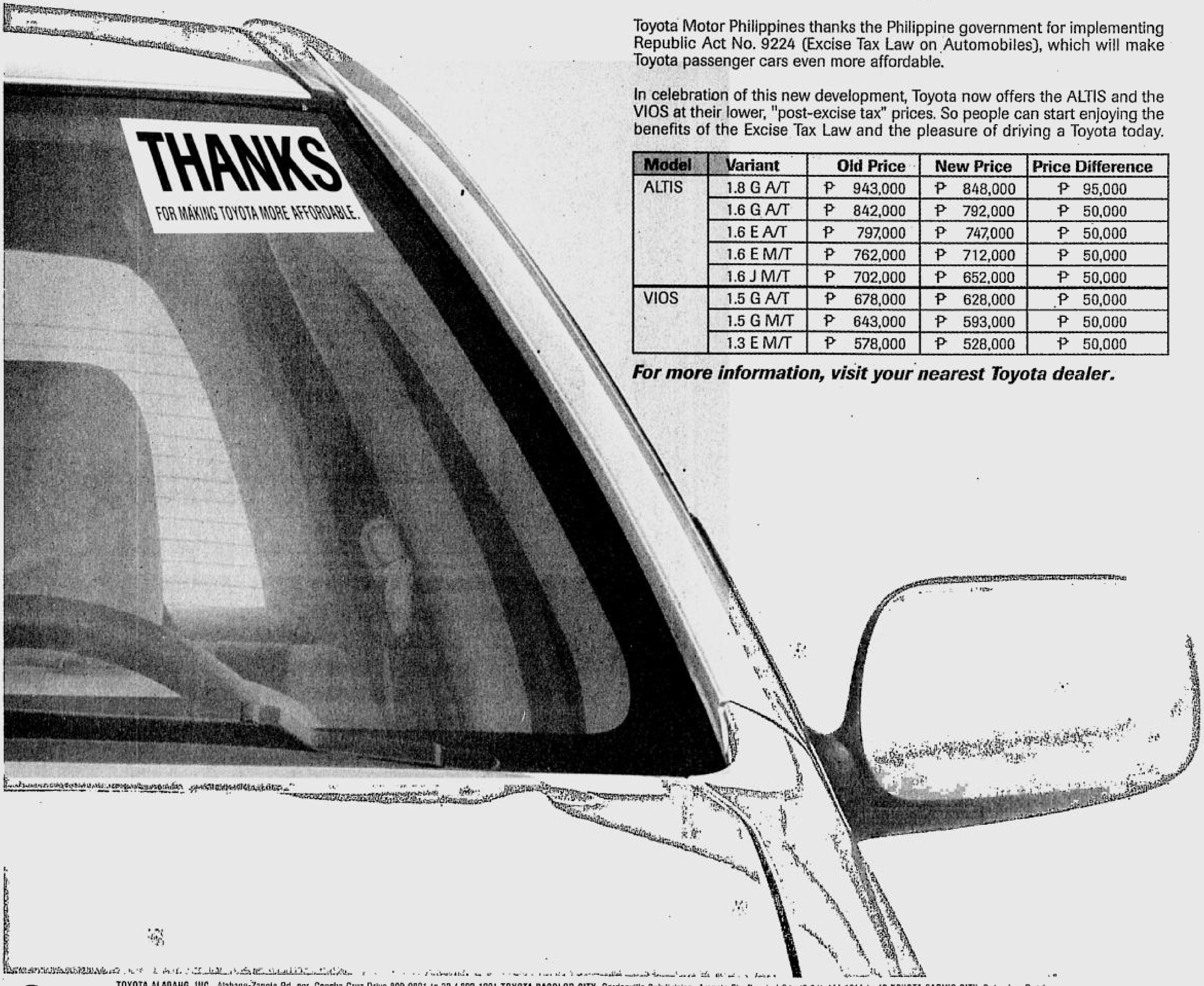

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TOYOTA

₱120M spent on cars, over 100 new consultants hired

From page A1

down of new hires for nine of Pagcor's 13 casinos: Silahis employed 449 "new personnel"; Mimosa, 281; Pavilion, 229; Heritage, 173; Tagaytay, 154; Angeles, 110; Olongapo, 62; Davao, 44; and Cebu, 40.

These new hires, however, add up to 1,542. They represent an increase of some 15 percent in Pagcor's manpower in the last two and a half years. In other words, one out of every seven employees in Pagcor today was hired during Genuino's incumbency.

This surge may partly explain the almost fivefold increase in one balance sheet entry as recorded in the company's 2001 annual report. From P18 million in 2000, the "provision for bonuses and other employee benefits" ballooned to over P86 million in 2001.

Genuino said last July the government-owned and controlled corporation he ran had almost 11,000 employees, of whom some 2,000 were officers.

Excessive spending

Pagcor's top-heavy corporate culture has also spurred excessive spending. A source familiar with the motor pool department offered statistics related to the company's fleet of vehicles.

Culling the numbers, the Inquirer found that over 100 cars and other vehicles were purchased since January 2001, at a total acquisition cost of well over P120 million. The number of new vehicles accounts for an unusually high proportion of Pagcor's 250-unit fleet—unusually high, the source said, because the oldest cars in the fleet date back to 1986. Most of the cars, two managers said, were for personal use.

The two also said that, under new rules, junior officers were now entitled to an P800,000 car plan, while senior officers enjoyed a P1.2-million plan. At least 50 officers have availed themselves of this benefit, they added.

"Lumang policy na 'yan (That's an old policy)," Pagcor deputy chief of staff Rene Figueroa told the Inquirer.

RP's biggest company

Genuino viewed the increase in the number of new vehicles from management's perspective. *"Lumalabas na* (It works out to) 2-3 employees a month," he said, referring to the average number of officers who availed themselves of the car plan in the last two and a half years. Considering the size of Pagcor, he said, "that's too small."

"OK lang 'yan (That number is OK)," he said, adding by way of explanation: "We are the biggest company in the country."

Figueroa pointed out that employees had "participation" in the car plans—that is, Pagcor shoulders only 60 percent of the actual cost. But the officer's 40-percent participation was "initially shouldered by Pagcor," he admitted.

According to a June 16, 2003 inter-office memorandum, a copy of which was seen by the Inquirer, Genuino and the most senior Pagcor officers received an increase in their car plan benefits.

APPOINTED to chair Pagcor shortly after Ms Macapagal assumed office on Jan. 20, 2001, Efraim Genuino is sworn to his new office by his benefactor.

As chair and CEO, Genuino is now entitled to a P2.5-million car plan, while the members of the board, the president and chief operating officer and Figueroa enjoyed a P2-million plan.

More than 100 consultants

Another Pagcor insider said the country's sole casino operator and regulator has over 100 "consultants" in its payroll—including a number of journalists.

The company pays over P2.5 million a month to these consultants, 90 percent of whom were hired only after January 2001, the manager said.

With consultancy fees ranging from P10,000 to P50,000 a month, the Inquirer estimates that Pagcor has paid its consultants in the central office and in its branches some P75 million between January 2001 and June 2003.

Asked whether Pagcor in general was guilty of excessive spending, Genuino emphatically said, *"Wala kami* (Not us)."

The manager who specified the four causes of financial difficulty also said that Pagcor was spending heavily on donations, "exclusive of what is mandated."

By law, the gaming firm is required to support various government agencies and projects, such as the Philippine Sports Commission and the Early Child Care Development program of the Department of Social Welfare and Development, as well as remit half of its income (based on 95 percent of net winnings) straight to the National Treasurer. The source said the company was spending an average of "P1 million a day" on "purely Pagcor donations."

"That's not true," Genuino said. He said the company's Community Relations department only had a budget of P150 to P200 million a year.

But the same manager suggested that these ComRel donations were at the expense of funding requirements required by law—for instance, the Early Child Care provision.

Under a law passed in 2001, the ECCD's P2-billion budget is to be funded by Pagcor over five years, at the rate of P400 million a year.

When asked how much Pagcor had already provided for the ECCD, however, Genuino replied: *"P60 million pa lang, kasi hindi pa sila ready* (Only P60 million, because the DSWD is not yet ready)."

This special report was written with assistance from Elena Torrijos, Juliet Javellana and Dona Pazzibugan

Angara protests GMA 7 censorship

OPPOSITION Sen. Edgardo Angara yesterday protested the move of television network GMA 7 to stop the airing of an episode of the Probe Team on Wednesday night that featured a lifestyle check report on Pagcor chair/CEO Efraim Genuino.

"We're against prior censorship, especially of investigative reporting," Angara told reporters in reaction to the GMA management's last-minute decision to pull out the episode on Genuino.

It was scheduled to air at 11:30 p.m. but a replay of a two-year-old Probe Team feature was shown instead.

Provocative

A GMA 7 statement claimed that the decision not to air the Genuino story was because it had "incomplete documents."

Angara said that investigative reporting is supposed to be "provocative."

Angara said the Probe Team was a "good investigative team.

"They should not censor it and prevent the public from seeing what they have done," Angara said.

Such action, he said, was a "disservice" to the media and the people.

Palace defends Pagcor chair

From page A1

posted "record revenues" under Genuino since his appointment in January 2001. Pagcor's total income surged to P17.5 billion in 2001 and P20.2 billion in 2002.

Bunye, however, refused to comment on whether Genuino was qualified for the job and whether it was appropriate for the President to appoint someone closely linked to First Gentleman Jose Miguel Arroyo to head Pagcor.

In his privilege speech at the Senate last month, Sen. Panfilo Lacson had alleged that Genuino or his representative was one of the regular visitors of Mr. Arroyo in his office at the LTA Building in Makati "to bring in big boxes or big bags."

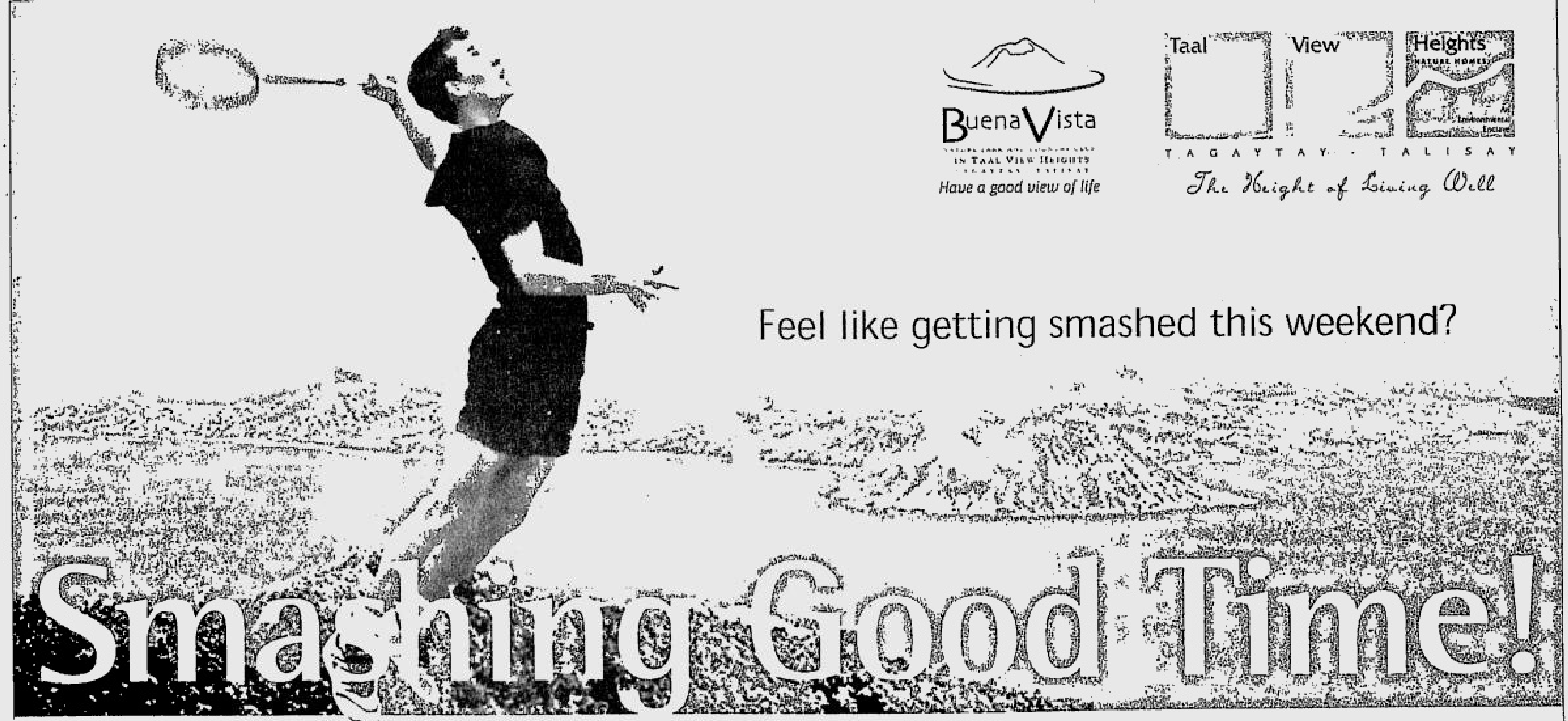
"We do not wish to preempt the President on this; it is not appropriate for me to comment on the qualifications of an appointee," Bunye said.

In her statement of support, the President said: "The financial state of Pagcor is open to the public. There is nothing furtive about its finances and these are bound by the rules of transparency and accountability," Ms Macapagal said. *Gil Cabacungan*

CORRECTION

MR. MIKE ARROYO and Efraim Genuino, chair and CEO of Pagcor, are members of Rotary Club Makati Central and not of the Rotary Club Makati as erroneously printed in the investigative report on Pagcor's finances in the Inquirer on Thursday.

The error was pointed out by Dennis Valdes, former president of the Rotary Club Makati.



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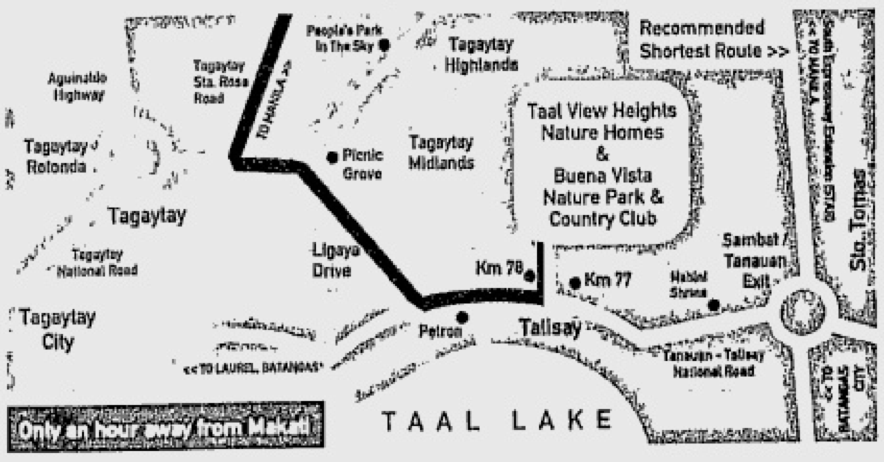

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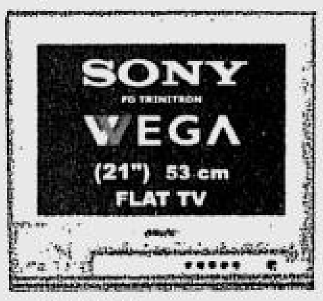

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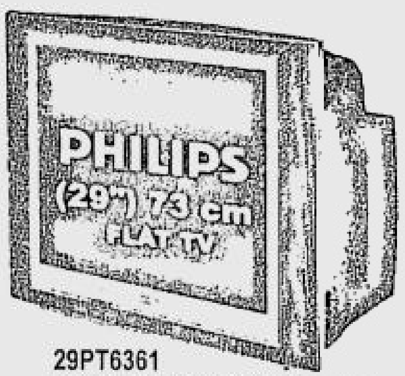

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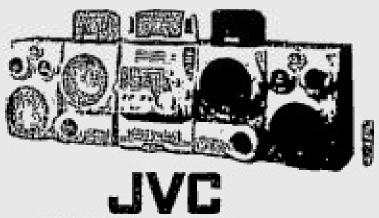

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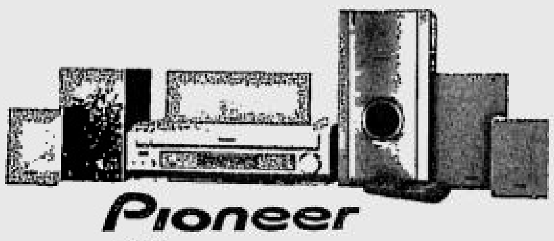

Pioneer
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- 4500 watts PMPO
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P4190

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DSCP32
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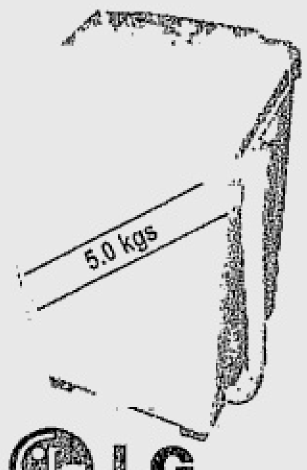
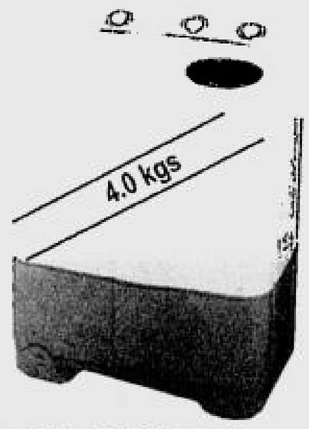
P14999



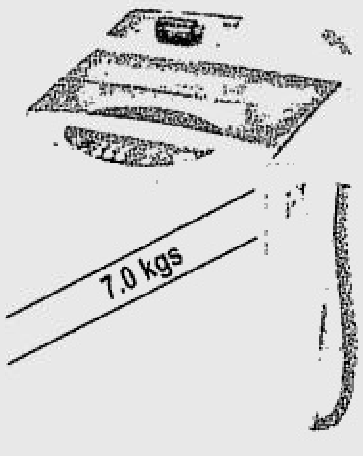
LG
5550
- Single tub washer

P2495



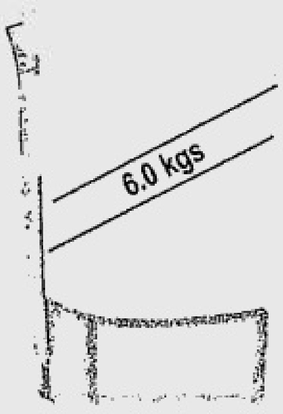
SAMSUNG
55H1
- Twin tub washer & spinner

P4995



SHARP
ES-710PF
- Fully Automatic washer & spinner

P13298

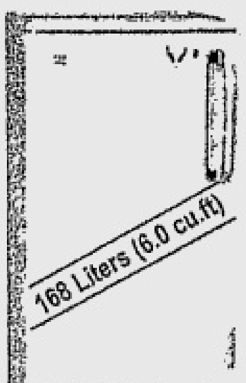


HAIER
T60-32
- Single tub spinner

P3090

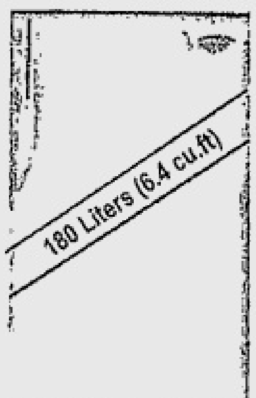
Whirlpool
ILGQ9858
- 11 kgs dry load
- Gas dryer

P26995



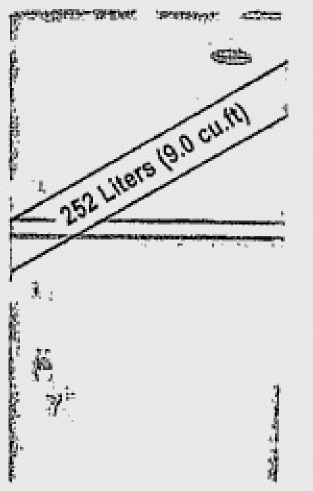
SANYO
HF707N
- Freezer

P11598



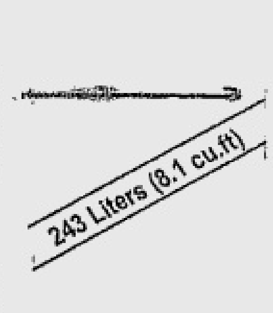
SHARP
SJ19-T(s)
- Manual defrost
- Silver casing

P7798



Kelvinator
K9TDM
- Manual defrost

P14095



LG
GR282MWF
- No frost

P14895

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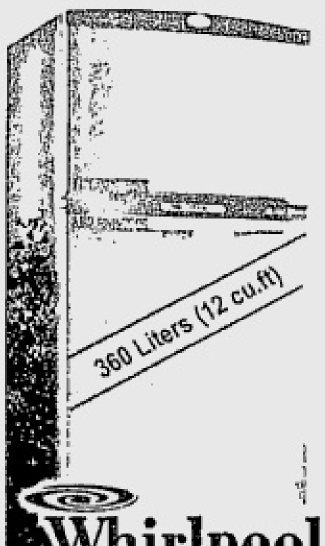
SAMSUNG
SR24WMB
- No frost
- With water dispenser

P15995



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The WORLD

Editor Luverne B. Gueco

Bush now says: No Saddam-9/11 link

WASHINGTON—US President George W. Bush said Wednesday that there was no proof tying Saddam Hussein to the Sept. 11 attacks, as his case for war with Iraq drew increasing scrutiny and mounting criticism.

"We've had no evidence that Saddam Hussein was involved with September the 11th," said Bush, who had justified the US-led invasion by saying Baghdad had unconventional weapons and ties to Osama bin Laden's al-Qaida network.

The US leader stood by the second allegation, saying there was "no question" of such links and charging that the now defunct Baathist regime had aided a Bin Laden ally who masterminded the slaying of a US aid worker in Jordan.

His comments came a week after an opinion poll found that nearly 70 percent of Americans believe that Saddam's regime, which US-led forces toppled in April, was linked to the attacks that left 3,000 people dead two years ago.

And, on Sunday, Vice President Dick Cheney seemed to stoke that belief, telling NBC television that Iraq was the "geographic base of the terrorists who have had us under assault now for many years, but most especially on 9/11."

Following the attacks on the Pentagon and the World Trade Center, Bush launched a military campaign to topple the Islamist Taliban militia of Afghanistan after they refused to hand over their guest, Bin Laden.

Asked about the opinion survey, Cheney replied: "It's not surprising that people make that connection" and hinted at a growing body of evidence tying the two US foes.

"We learn more and more that there was a relationship between Iraq and al-Qaida that stretched back through most of the decade of the (19)90s," he said in the interview.

Prodded, Cheney said that "we don't know" whether Baghdad had played a role in the attacks, in which 19 al-Qaida members, 15 of them Saudis, took over airliners and flew them into the World Trade Center and the Pentagon.

The vice president also recounted the controversial claim that one of the hijackers, Mohammed Atta, met with an Iraqi official in Prague before the attacks. US and Czech officials have said the meeting did not occur.

Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld and Bush's national security adviser, Condoleezza Rice, have since denied that any evidence exists tying the former Iraqi dictator to the Sept. 11 plot.

In the run up to the war against Saddam, Bush repeatedly alleged close ties between Baghdad and al-Qaeda, and conjured up a frightening scenario in which Saddam might pass chemical or biological arms to bin Laden's followers.

During his January State of the Union speech, the president warned: "Before September the 11th, many in the world believed that Saddam Hussein could be contained."

"Imagine those 19 hijackers with other weapons and other plans, this time armed by Saddam Hussein," he told a joint session of the US Congress.

Separately, White House spokesman Scott McClellan said that US-led forces would eventually unearth weapons of mass destruction in Iraq. *AFP*

Spain charges Bin Laden for Sept. 11 attacks

MADRID—Spain's top anti-terrorist judge on Wednesday charged 35 people, including the head of al-Qaida, Osama bin Laden, and a journalist for the Arab Al-Jazeera TV network, with involvement in the Sept. 11 attacks.

In a 700-page indictment, Baltasar Garzon issued an international arrest warrant for Bin Laden and set a date of Sept. 24 for those already arrested in Spain to appear in court.

Garzon further issued international arrest warrants for 13 people for their role in the attacks on New York and Washington two years ago.

The journalist charged was Tayssir Alluni, 56, a star reporter best known for interviewing the mastermind behind the attacks in Afghanistan two years ago, who was arrested in southern Spain on Sept. 5.

The judge ruled last Thursday Alluni should answer allegations of being a member of al-Qaida.

Spanish police suspect Alluni of having links to members of al-Qaida's network including Imad Eddin Barakat Yarkas, alias Abou Dahdah, who was arrested on suspicion of being the ringleader of an Islamist fundamentalist cell which Spanish authorities dismantled in November 2001.

Al-Jazeera—which insists Alluni is innocent and has accused the United States and Israel of inciting Spain to incriminate him—demanded a speedy trial for its star reporter.

"We hope the trial will get under way as soon as possible. We have full confidence in the integrity of Spanish justice," spokesperson Jihad Ballut said Wednesday.

Of those charged 33 are accused of being al-Qaida members while two are accused of collaborating with a terrorist organization.

Bin Laden is believed to be alive and on the run since the Sept. 11 attacks that left 3,000 dead.

Included on Garzon's list are 18 Spanish-based suspected radical Islamic militants, 12 of whom are currently already in Spanish detention, who must now appear before Garzon next week. The remainder are at liberty but out on bail.

Of the 35 charged ten are charged specifically with direct involvement in Sept. 11, including along with Bin Laden himself three men already in Spanish custody.

Alluni, of Syrian origin but holder of a Spanish passport, is charged with "integration of the terrorist group al Qaida," which he denies. *AFP*

Osama running terror war from cave, says paper

DUBAI—Osama bin Laden is running the terror war against the United States from a cave, a press report said Thursday, quoting a source it said was the chief of training for the al-Qaida network.

"Al-Qaida is everywhere around the world and in strength," claimed Abu Mohamed al-Ablaj in an e-mail interview published Friday by Al-Majallah, a Saudi-owned weekly.

"Bin Laden is leading it from a cave, the same cave from where the orders went out to destroy the citadel of the Pentagon and which the Pentagon has not been able to destroy," he said.

"Abu Abdullah (bin Laden) enjoys full freedom of movement. He directs the fighting against the evil administration in Satan's Black House from his cave.

"He swears to die fighting for God. Like any mujahedeen, he cannot imagine dying in his bed," added al-Ablaj, a nom de guerre.

The world's most wanted man popped up on the Qatari television station Al-Jazeera on the eve of the second anniversary of the Sept. 11 attacks on the United States.

In a video believed to have been recorded last April or May, Bin Laden and his top lieutenant Ayman Zawahiri, both looking aged and thin, were shown walking through a rocky valley, probably in Afghanistan, carrying Kalashnikov rifles.

"When Abu Abdullah disappears the whole world wonders about it, when he reappears the world is stunned," Al-Ablaj told the newspaper, which has run several previous interviews with the same man.

"His sudden reappearances are a war in themselves, it's a blow struck at the head of the American media cobra." *AFP*

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Arafat says he'll use gun to defend himself

RAMALLAH, West Bank—Palestinian President Yasser Arafat said on Wednesday he would be prepared to die a "martyr" if Israeli troops tried to exile or assassinate him.

"I am a Palestinian soldier... I will use my gun to defend not only myself but also defend every Palestinian child, woman and man and to defend the Palestinian existence," Arafat said in an interview as he pointed to his machinegun.

"Die a martyr? Yes, is there anyone in Palestine who does not dream of martyrdom?" he asked from his battered West Bank office.

Wearing his military outfit and black and white headdress, Arafat said of his supporters and the crowds chanting pro-Arafat slogans: "I bow in respect to those people."

Arafat said Israel had defied the United States and the rest of the world by deciding—after 15 Israelis were killed in back-to-back Palestinian suicide bombings last week—to "remove" him because it considered him an obstacle to peace.

The 74-year-old former guerrilla leader said the Israeli decision had prompted hundreds of thousands of Palestinians and Arabs to hold demonstrations to express their anger.

Arafat shrugged off the United States' veto of a UN resolution demanding that Israel not harm or expel him, saying it was "not the first veto against the Palestinians and will not be the last."

The US said it vetoed the resolution because the measure failed to criticize Palestinian groups behind suicide bombings.

US officials said that despite the veto, they were still opposed to the assassination or exile of Arafat.

Palestinian officials said they feared the veto would be seen by Israeli leaders as a "license to kill Arafat."

Arafat said a new Palestinian cabinet headed by prime minister nominee Ahmed Qurie would be announced next week.

"Although I had reservations on the road map, I nevertheless accepted it unconditionally. We implemented our commitments so far but Israel, which has 14 reservations, did not implement anything yet," Arafat said. *Reuters*

WORLDBRIEFS

Hurricane in East Coast

KITTY HAWK, North Carolina—Tens of thousands of people fled the US Atlantic coast packed in cars and trucks Wednesday as the government heightened its hurricane 'Isabel' alert. Packing winds of 170 km per hour, the storm was expected to make landfall on Thursday and sweep up the East Coast. Emergencies were declared in North Carolina, Maryland and Virginia states, which ordered the evacuation of more than 225,000 residents from coastal zones. "All preparations to protect life and property should be rushed to completion in the hurricane warning area," the US National Hurricane Center warned. Washington, which is also in Isabel's path, also ordered precautions. Federal agencies would be closed Thursday and only emergency employees would be expected to work. The House of Representatives was shutting down and the Senate was closing early, while the White House said it was "working to secure items that may be blown away." *AFP*

Rodent the size of buffalo

WASHINGTON—It would be an exterminator's worst nightmare: A 700-kg rodent with a voracious appetite and big teeth. Resembling a guinea pig grown to the size of a buffalo, the animal lived millions of years ago in a South American swamp and is thought to be history's biggest rodent, researchers say this week in the journal Science. "Imagine a weird guinea pig, but huge, with a long tail for balancing on its hind legs and continuously growing teeth," said Marcelo R. Sanchez-Villagra of the University of Tubingen in Germany. He is the first author of the study. The formal name of the rodent is Phoberomys pattersoni. The last term is in honor of Brian Patterson, a Harvard professor who led a fossil-collection expedition to Venezuela in the 1970s. Informally, the skeleton is called Goya. It was unearthed in a semidesert area of Venezuela, about 400 km west of Caracas. *AP*

Lindh murder suspect

PER OLOF SVENSSON, suspect in Lindh slay

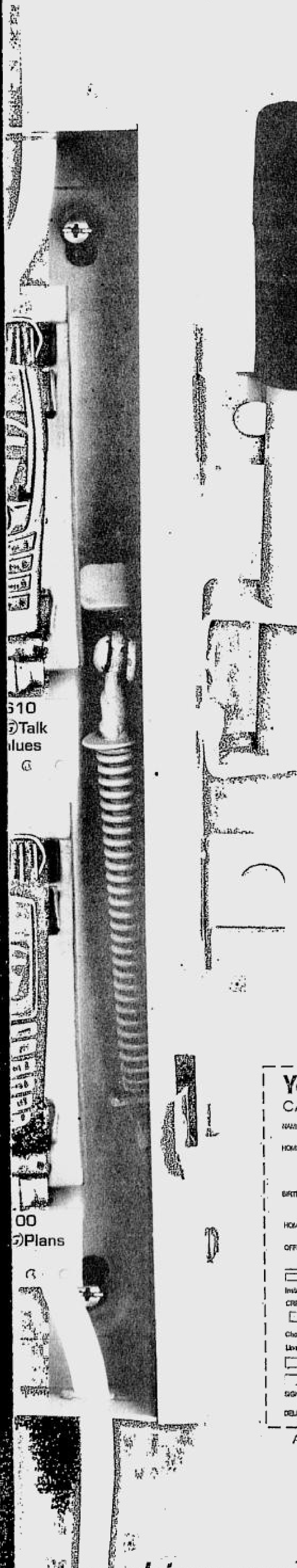
STOCKHOLM—Police raced Wednesday to compile evidence against a man arrested as the top suspect in the killing of foreign minister Anna Lindh, pinning their hopes on DNA testing as they prepared to question him. Detectives were also piecing together a profile of the suspect, with Swedish media portraying him as an enigmatic personality, equally at home in neo-Nazi circles as in the upper echelons of Stockholm society. "Time is essential," police spokesperson Stina Wessling told a news conference one day after the suspect's arrest. Swedish police can only hold a suspect for three days before a fresh detention order has to be issued on the basis of evidence. The head of the inquiry, prosecutor Agneta Blidberg, told reporters she had until Friday to ask Stockholm district court to detain the man. DNA samples taken from the suspect overnight were undergoing analysis and that process would be completed by Thursday, the deputy head of the Swedish Laboratory for Forensic Science, Tore Olsson, said. *AFP*

Ousted Guinea-Bissau leader

BISSAU—Guinea-Bissau leader Kumba Yala, the elected president ousted in a weekend coup, said Wednesday he has willingly agreed to step down in the interest of the west African nation. His recorded speech was broadcast over state media in the evening after a delegation from the Economic Community of West African States (Ecowas) had met with Yala and the coup leaders from the armed forces over the past two days. "In the higher interest of the nation and thanks to the mediation of Ecowas, I have decided to renounce the post of president of the Republic, in the name of national unity and for peace," said Yala. A statement issued by Ecowas said that the armed forces had indicated they were not interested in power and would return to barracks. A broadly based transitional government composed exclusively of civilians would be formed after consultations. *AFP*

BBC reporter admits errors

LONDON—The BBC journalist who first aired claims that British Prime Minister Tony Blair's government "sexed up" the case for war on Iraq admitted Wednesday that he had made a series of errors in his report. Speaking at the inquiry into the death of David Kelly—the source of his controversial news story—Gilligan said firstly he had been wrong to refer to the Ministry of Defense consultant as an "intelligence service source." Asked why he did, during a tough cross-examination at London's Royal Courts of Justice, he said: "I don't know. It was a mistake. It was the kind of mistake that does arise in live broadcasts." Gilligan is one of several key witnesses recalled by senior judge Brian Hutton for cross-examination during the second phase of the inquiry which began Monday. *AFP*



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Loose talk

EDITORIAL

DURING the past two weeks, top law-enforcement officials, led by no less than President Macapagal-Arroyo, Interior Secretary Jose Lina and Director General Hermogenes Ebdane of the Philippine National Police, have issued a flurry of statements warning that unscrupulous politicians appeared to be behind the recent spate of high-profile crimes that have rocked the nation. They said the assassination of public figures, bank robberies and kidnappings could be part of a grand design to destabilize the Macapagal administration or to bankroll the campaign of some candidates in the 2004 elections.

To their warnings has been added the voice of Catanduanes Rep. Joseph Santiago who noted that the bank robberies "may have something to do with the fund-raising drives of politicians with links to crime gangs or may be related to recent attempts to discredit and destabilize the government." Then for the second time this month, the President directed the police to investigate these reports. "The people must be made aware of this threat and our people must not glorify rogue leaders masquerading as paragons of reforms or good performance," she said.

Fine, if indeed there is good reason to believe this theory. It is not enough that the police discern a close correlation between the approach of elections and the rise of big-time robberies, hold-ups and kidnappings. They must get to the bottom of these crimes and nail down the culprits, nothing less.

But in the absence of hard, solid, irrefutable evidence, the allegations until now sound like mere insinuations and at times even smells like a political witch hunt. Without evidence, the allegations only add to the fractious air that has been whipped up by endless political wrangling and partisan strife.

To say that the allegations are a cause for concern is an understatement. In the United States, the Mafia dons tried to buy their freedom or respectability with blood money. But here we could have criminals trying not only to buy respectability but also to gain political power and possibly to use such power to cover up and expand their criminal activities.

This isn't even news anymore. The reputed leader of a notorious robbery-and-kidnap gang operating nationwide has actually been elected mayor of a city in Mindanao. And he has reportedly transformed the city and neighboring communities into a veritable haven of criminality and corruption, where smugglers and drug traffickers operate with impunity. But nobody dares to tangle with him, not even church leaders or law enforcement authorities.

What is news is that more criminals seem to be following in his footsteps and intensifying their activities to raise campaign funds for next year's elections, if the authorities are to be believed. But if indeed our law enforcement officials can see through their motives, be it election fund-raising or destabilization or both, then they must know who these people are. So why have there been no arrests and no charges filed in court? How many more crimes will they commit before the government can build up solid cases against them?

Until the government starts making arrests, all the warnings about gangster-politicians and campaign fund-raising through crime are little more than loose talk.

Old record

FOREIGN COMMENT

A FEW days before the second anniversary of the dramatic terror attacks on Sept. 11, US President George Bush reached back to the well-tried theme which has brought him success so far: the fight against the international terrorism, to which everything has to be subordinated, even the horrendous costs of the war in Iraq.

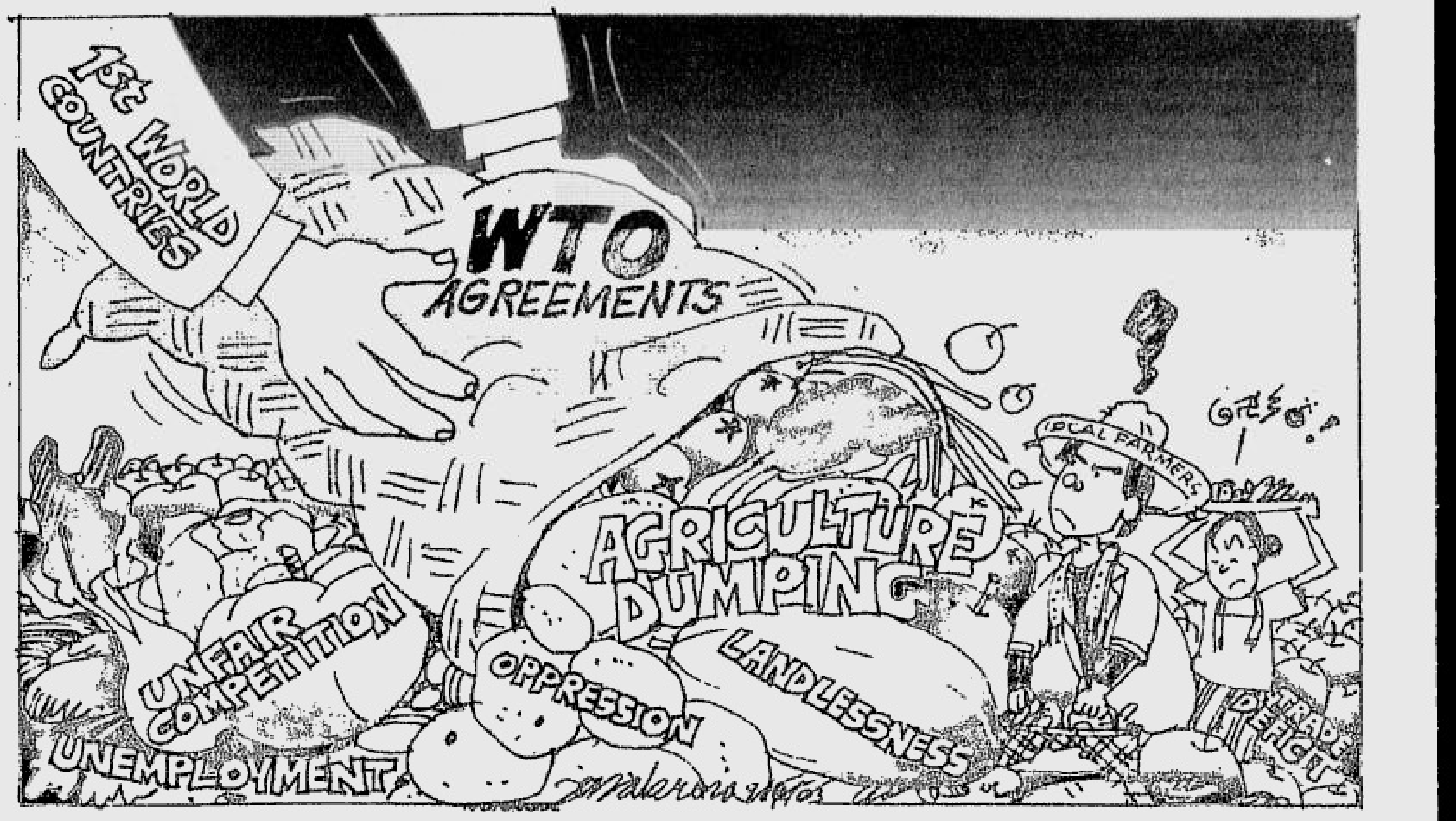
Bush's tactic has been working even though the intelligence services have been unable to show a connection between the dictator Saddam Hussein and the al-Qaida terror organization.... The majority of Americans still believe that Saddam was behind the attacks.

With little more than a year to go before the presidential election, Bush hardly has any option other than playing this old record: He cannot point to any lasting successes in foreign politics.

Even if foreign politics traditionally plays a minor roll in the US electoral battle, the increasing insecurity in Iraq is having an impact on the domestic politics that will decide the election. Concerned, the Americans are wondering how much longer their boys will be exposed to the terror in foreign countries. Above all, increasing costs for the occupation of Iraq are tearing an even bigger hole in the United States' budget.

The call to fight terrorism may still impress the majority of American voters, but in the long run, the old record could wear out and the support for Bush's domestic politics will wane.

Neue Luzerner Zeitung (Lucerne, Switzerland)



Mike Arroyo was paid with fake land title

AS I SEE IT

Neal H. Cruz

"POLITICIANS behind bank robberies"—headline.

So what else is new? Politicians have been robbing the people for many decades.

The loot takes different forms: pork barrel, Countrywide Development Funds, kickbacks from government contracts, the overprice on government projects, salaries of ghost employees, payment for ghost deliveries of supplies, proceeds from underpayment of taxes or outright tax evasion, deposits stolen from taxes already collected, tax refunds to those who did not pay taxes, unliquidated cash advances, payments for seminars, vehicles, various allowances, etc. It depends on the ingenuity of the politicians.

Now it is bank robberies. Why? Naturally, because they have the money. The usual sources of loot mentioned above are drying up. The budget department is not releasing pork barrel allocations. Not enough tax collections. The contractors are not being paid, so they have nothing to kick back to the politicians. Businessmen are losing their shirts because of the depressed economy. So the politicians have to be resourceful. They have to look for other sources of funds. And the banks are there, bursting with money but careless. And some bankers steal the depositors' money anyway. So the bank robbers or the politicians beat them to it.

Besides, bank robbery is a pretty safe enterprise in the Philippines. No recent bank robbery has ever been solved by the police. Probably because some members of the police force are also members of robbery gangs. In the Philippines, you have to have a sideline to make both ends meet.

Why do the politicians need so much money? Well, another election is coming up and politicians need money, plenty of it, to win an election.

Why do they steal so much money only to blow it in an election campaign? Because if they don't win, they won't be able to steal more from the government.

Why not just keep the loot from the banks, don't spend it in an election campaign, so the politicians don't have to steal anymore?

What, and lose their high positions in the government? What a loss of face that would be. Their wives and mistresses won't give them a moment's peace. They would lose their places in high society. What torture it would be to have the other wives look down their noses at the wives of the losing politicians.

Besides, when a politician is out of power, all the enemies he accumulated when he was up there will gang up on him now that he is down here. Revenge is sweet. So you see, the politicians have no choice but to stay in power at all costs, even if they have to rob banks. We have to understand the politicians' plight. *Kawawa naman sila.*

* * *

In an earlier column, I wrote that the rich have more problems than the poor, that it is easier to make the poor happy than the rich businessmen who are preoccupied with paying their huge debts and are always worrying about the economy and the exchange rate. Give a squatter enough food for the day and he would be very happy, but a rich man with hundreds of millions of pesos would have a heart attack if the price of his stocks falls in the stock market. And he would be extremely unhappy if his rival builds a shopping mall bigger and more beautiful than his.

Besides, so many con artists are always trying to make the rich part with their money. These con artists don't even have any respect for people in high places.

Would you believe that First Gentleman Mike Arroyo, the ever-loving husband of the President of the Philippines no less, has been victimized by one such artist?

Mr. Arroyo was given a land title to several hectares of prime land in Quezon City as payment for a debt. He had the title transferred to his name. But the title turned out to be fake; the prime land it was supposed to cover turned out to be non-existent. In 1998, he had the title cancelled.

Did he run after the person who duped him with the fake title? We won't know until the First Gentleman decides the question does not invade his privacy and answers it.

But to add insult to injury, Sen. Panfilo Lacson got hold of a copy of that fake title and accused the First Couple of not including it in their statement of assets and liabilities.

"Why would Mr. Arroyo include it in their SAL," asked his lawyer Jess Santos at the Kapihan sa Manila, "When the title is fake. There is no property."

But if the husband of the President of the Philippines can be duped by a fake land titling syndicate, is anybody safe from them?

Yes, those who have no money.

* * *

KAPIHAN NOTES: Vice President Teofisto Guingona will be the guest at next Monday's Kapihan sa Manila (Hotel). Guingona is the president of Lakas, the political party of President Macapagal-Arroyo, which will announce its candidates next month. Would you believe that some Lakas party members want him, the party president, out of his party?

That, and Guingona's feelings about the forthcoming Bush visit, will be the subject of Monday's forum.

TODAY'S JOKE: Young lady to new parish priest: "Father *ang* cute *n'yo naman. Bakit pa ba kayo nag-pari?*"

Priest: "*Kasi, ayaw akong payagan ng* Mama *kong mag-madre, eh.*"

Defending democracy

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

THE ONLY activity I know for this Sunday is a tribute to heroes at the Bantayog ng mga Bayani in Quezon City. I hope a multitude will go there, if only to show that we are not so thankless we cannot remember those who lost life and limb to give us our freedoms.

This Sunday of course is the anniversary of martial law. This is the perfect time to have launched rallies in defense of democracy—and it is a testament to how low civil society has sunk that it has not thought of doing so. It may not be very long before civil society becomes just another word for polite society, a group of people that likes to indulge in polite conversations with power.

Well, it's not too late to hold one. It's particularly opportune in light of the citizens being confused these days as to who to support. It's not a question of who, it's a question of what. Forget the rally to defend democracy in La Salle Greenhills a couple of weeks ago. That was not a rally to defend democracy, that was a rally to defend Gloria. There is a difference. What a rally to defend democracy is should be patent enough if we look back at martial law, which tells us in ironclad terms what democracy is not.

Democracy is not foreign intervention. Democracy is not something another country can assure for us. It is something only we can assure for ourselves. Countries do not intervene for the good of other countries, they intervene only for their own good. That was patent with martial law. What made it succeed was its active endorsement by US President Richard Nixon and his sidekick, Henry Kissinger, the same two people who engineered the fall and murder of Salvador Allende, the democratically elected and democratically minded president of Chile.

American intervention is the hallmark of GMA's rule, too. It's the only thing that is keeping it afloat—a lifeline that, as Marcos found out, could be easily withdrawn when one has outlived his or her usefulness. In lieu of Nixon and Kissinger, there are George Bush Jr. and Donald Rumsfeld, the American Caesars who would rid the world of terrorists by propping up the regimes of the coup leader, Pervez Musharaf in Pakistan, and the terrorist Ariel Sharon of Israel. And their mouthpiece, GMA of the Philippines.

Democracy is not militarization by whatever excuse. Martial law was, as the name indicates, putting the military in charge of national life. It was a gamble Marcos took to keep power, a third term as president being unavailable to him. What made it a gamble was that Marcos was not a military man, he was a lawyer. He made up for it by striking a martial pose and propagating the myth of being the most decorated guerrilla fighter of World War II. He kept the generals at bay by retaining his favorite, or loyal, ones past retirement age, and fomenting distrust among them. In the end though, he himself could not prevent a military mutiny and saw one end his rule in 1986.

The "war against terror" has equally militarized this country, putting the military in charge of national life. Except that GMA has not made the gamble, she has plunged willy-nilly into it, thinking that having Bush behind her would tame the beast she has unleashed. I will not go again into how far GMA has slipped a martial culture into this country. It is enough that you see Roilo Golez talking on TV as though he were the fountainhead of wisdom. Nor do we have to go far to see the results of that militarization. It has brought back coups as a real threat to the republic. That never happened during Fidel Ramos' time, a monumental irony in light of the fact that Ramos was a general. One who civilianized the military.

Democracy is not corruption. Ironically, Marcos vowed to become a Robin Hood, stealing from the rich—the "oligarchs," he called them—to give to the poor. He became only a Hood, stealing from the rich to give to himself. He became the biggest oligarch of all. GMA has vowed to hound the corrupt and ungodly to the ends of the earth and succeeded in doing so only one Acsa Ramirez who blew the whistle on the corrupt and ungodly. She has since kissed and made up, but she may not count on the vote of Ramirez or her attendance at Edsa when the Pandora's Box she opened comes to claim her.

And democracy is not an iron fist. Democracy is not mistaking protest for destabilization, rallies for riots, "people power" with coup plots. Democracy is not dividing the world into black and white, terrorists and democrats, "You are with me or you are against me." As GMA has found out, you keep saying that, you are bound to find out the world is against you.

Democracy is not a strong republic, it is a strong citizenry. It is respecting pluralism and multiplicity and freedom. It is taking independence and sovereignty like the breath of life itself. It is refusing to allow freedom to be trampled by the march of national security. It is fighting corruption and rottenness as betraying the trust and faith of the nation. It is seeing what made the Edsa Shrine a shrine, which is the benediction of the voice of the people: It must be heard at all times. It is embracing the way of peace, or the one that goes to the root of unrest and strife, and not the way of war, or the one that suffuses the world with the silence of the dead. That is what democracy is. The other kind is not democracy, it is martial law.

I've repeatedly said that I do not think GMA can mount another martial law, as the mutineers charged. But then you do not need to impose martial law to produce its effects. That is what GMA has done: She has produced the effects of martial law.

The next few days are a good time to rally to fight this. The next few days are a good time to rally to defend democracy.

* * *

Comments to dequiros@info.com.ph

Political interventionism

ANALYSIS

Amando Doronila

THE RETIREMENT of Jaime Cardinal Sin as Archbishop of Manila came a few days ahead of the 31st anniversary of the declaration of martial law by President Ferdinand Marcos on Sept. 21, 1972. As such, Cardinal Sin and martial law are bound up with each other as inextricably as—if we are to repeat an observation by some perceptive historical observers—that Achilles is bound up with Hector, Julius Caesar with Brutus and Cassius, Hannibal with Scipio and Napoleon with the Duke of Wellington.

Sin, who reigned as Archbishop of Manila for nearly 30 years, presided over the transformation of the Philippine Catholic Church into a political force exercising unprecedented influence in reshaping the fabric of Philippine politics as catalyst of political mobilizations that toppled two presidents—Marcos and Joseph Estrada.

Sin has been the shrewdest politician the country ever had, although he disguised his political shrewdness behind the cloth. There are some, with an international outlook, who regard him as the most gifted modern prelate-politician since Cardinal Richelieu of France. Not so long ago, some journals had written that Sin was a "*papable*"—potential material for the papacy. Sin was more than a domestic prelate; he internationalized the role of the Philippine Church putting it in the center of political upheavals in the country, and galvanizing the Filipino people behind his mission to defend human rights and to work for the restoration of democracy stolen by the Marcos dictatorship.

On certain occasions, Sin's political activism caused unease in the Vatican which made known its misgivings over, in particular, his overt role in using the pulpit in campaigning for the resignation of Estrada, when he was engulfed by a tide of corruption and incompetence charges.

Demonstrating shrewd and accurate political judgments reflecting the mood of the people during Edsa I and Edsa II, Sin was in step with the current of popular movements in the Soviet bloc in Eastern Europe, whose peoples liberated themselves peacefully from the yoke of the Red Army, inspired by the Filipino people power movement of Edsa I.

The clampdown on democracy by the Marcos martial law regime, which will be commemorated on Sunday, provided the political environment that drew out Sin's political interventionism and that provided the environment in which the political activist role of the Church thrived.

Sunday's anniversary is at once a landmark and a turning point in Philippine political history, signaling the rise of the tide of political interventionism by two of the most powerful Philippine institutions—the Church and the military. The martial law proclamation uncorked the genie of interventionism by these two historical forces, one secular and the other with a spiritual base. Up until now, the genie has not been corked back into the bottle.

Faced with a continuing communist insurgency feeding on social unrest and standing on a narrow popular base, the martial law regime was driven to be dependent on the military for its survival. This dependency ingrained in the military the mentality that civilian-led governments—including that of Marcos—are hostage to their support.

This mentality has prevailed even after the restoration of democracy. And the military interventions of 1986 and 2001 have even allowed the genie of interventionism to roam untrammeled in the democratic space, finding a recent expression in the July 17 failed coup attempt. After interventionism first drew blood in 1986 and achieved a modicum of success, no one can say that the military has gone back to the barracks for good.

With the political parties dissolved and parliament subordinated by the all-powerful executive, the military was the institution that served as the pillar of regime support. But as the dictatorship increased the politically strategic role of the military, this dependence made subsequent civilian governments vulnerable to military defections and adventurism.

As the military's support role grew during the dictatorship, the paradox was that military intervention also stoked the fires of the Church's political intervention. Indeed, the Church's intervention provided the counter-foil to that of the military. During the Marcos regime, the Church was the only institution with a nationwide infrastructure through which popular grievances found expression. The pulpit served as the people's voice, unable to find expression in the public press which was controlled by the regime, and the parishes acted as the "invisible" government whose network extending down the grass roots existed side by side with the dictatorship's barangay infrastructure.

Sin made use of the Church's traditional grassroots network, established since the days of the often-bloody conflict between the Spanish secular and ecclesiastical authorities, to mount his political challenge to the oppressive regime. In the vacuum of secular political institutions, the Church and the military competed with each other in intervening in politics, with different goals and outcomes.

And so, as we contemplate Sin's retirement, it foreshadows a shift away from political activism and toward other church concerns in a changing world.

Unless political institutions of democracy are strengthened, the exit of an interventionist Church leaves a monopoly of that role to the military which has shown little signs it is shedding its interventionist mentality.

The martial law anniversary is a reminder of the imbalance between popular civil institutions and the undemocratic military bureaucratic institution. The Church cannot be a replacement of political institutions. Sin's exit underlines the passing of an epoch in which the Church played a critical role in the balance of power. He will be missed.

Goodbye menstruation?

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

IT'S said that the German doctor who developed the oral contraceptive pill came up with the seven "placebo" pills (the ones that come in a different color) that trigger menstruation because he feared that if women didn't bleed once a month they would undergo "menstrual chaos."

That is, he was afraid that women would lose their equanimity and be scared to death if they stopped having their periods while they were on the pill. So he thought of "allowing" women a semblance of a "normal" menstrual cycle, even if the pill's mechanism was in fact the prevention of ovulation, which is where the cycle of menstruation (and pregnancy) begins.

One of the major drawbacks in the promotion of injectable contraceptives, in fact, is that a woman would stop menstruating while she is on them. Caregivers were told to "warn" women about the cessation of menstruation while they were on injectables, and I have heard of more than one woman who stopped coming for her regular injections for fear that they had triggered menopause!

What's with menstruation and women anyway? As girls experiencing menarche (the onset of menstruation), we both feared and anticipated this day, which, so our mothers told us, signaled our entry into womanhood. Before I got married, I would experience severe cramps and bloating with my period, and so I learned to dread its arrival. On the other hand, women, it is said, dread menopause and the end of their periods, not just because it signals a "life change"—the end of a woman's capacity to get pregnant—but also because it symbolizes their loss of "womanhood."

Really? As far as I'm concerned, I can't wait to finally put the days of sanitary napkins and stained underwear—not to mention twisted garter belts—behind me. (I think the invention of adhesive pads ranks up there with the personal computer.) Of course I wait for menopause with some anxiety, having heard stories of hot flashes, night sweats, chills, wrinkles and dryness "down there." But menstruation I will not miss at all.

* * *

NOW comes news that the US Food and Drug Administration has approved the marketing of "Seasonale," the first "extended-cycle" oral contraceptive pill that will cut the number of women's periods to four times a year.

Manufactured by Barr Laboratories, Seasonale has 84 "active" pills followed by seven days of placebos, which means quarterly periods for women taking them.

A report on WebMD, a website on health matters, quotes Dr. Paul Norris, a professor of obstetrics/gynecology at the University of Miami School of Medicine, who says that "even if a woman has no period for years and years, the safety has been well proven."

Menstruation, says Dr. Norris, is "the shedding of endometrial tissue," which is what the lining of the uterus consists of. OCPs prevent that tissue build-up so there's really nothing to shed, Norris points out.

In fact, Norris says gynecologists have long used continuous OCPs as treatment for women with endometriosis, that is, with endometrial tissue growing outside of the uterus, who suffer from excruciating pain during their periods. No menstrual cycle, no pain.

Critics have voiced their concerns about exposing women to continuous high dosages of progesterone and estrogen, but Seasonale, it's been pointed out, contains lower dosages of hormones than other pills. The US National Women's Health Network, a women's health advocacy group that criticized hormone replacement therapy early on, does not see significant concerns with Seasonale.

"It's definitely not for everyone," says Norris. "But for women who have cyclic problems, who are anemic, have symptomatic fibroids, and for women who are very active and just don't want to be bothered by periods, it's good news."

* * *

NOT SO good news is a report that scientists in Canada have found that women sometimes ovulate several times in a single month.

Once verified, the finding, said the report "would overturn the traditional wisdom that women produce an egg cell once a month," helping explain why "natural" methods of family planning, "based on the idea that ovulation can be predicted, often fail."

"We are literally going to have to re-write medical textbooks," said Dr. Roger Pierson, director of the Reproductive Biology Research Unit at the University of Saskatchewan, who led the study.

The report says that standard scientific thought holds that a woman has a cycle running roughly 28 days in which an egg ripens, is released by the follicle, drops into the fallopian tube, and then is either fertilized or shed during menstruation.

* * *

WHAT Pierson and his team found in their study defied this notion. The study consisted of performing daily high-resolution ultrasound scans on 63 women for a month, which allowed them to see the follicles very clearly. Of the 63 women, all of whom had normal menstrual cycles, only 50 had "normal ovarian cycles." The 13 other women "ovulated multiple times, in various ways," while of the other 50, 40 percent "had up to three waves of activity by the follicles, any one of which could result in the production of an egg."

The study also found that ovarian cycles and hormonal (or menstrual) cycles do not always coincide.

"The hormones do what they are going to do and the ovaries just follow their merry path," Pierson said.

"We always thought that menstrual cycles and ovarian cycles were one and the same. It turns out they are just like two political parties—sometimes they go along hand in hand for the good of the country and sometimes they go along their separate ways."

Pierson's team plans longer-term studies to see if the women's patterns are consistent from month to month.

'False friends'

LOOKING BACK

Ambeth R. Ocampo

E-MAIL response to the word-list compiled by Antonio Pigafetta, chronicler of the 1521 Magellan expedition, was quite unexpected. I didn't realize people would get worked up over my asking aloud whether I would be able to communicate in 16th-century Cebu using 21st-century Filipino or Taglish. Most people called my attention to the words in Pigafetta's list that were, despite the atrocious spelling that resulted from an Italian ear transcribing Visayan for the first time, very much the same and still used in the Visayas today. Readers gently but pointedly remarked that Pigafetta's word-list is neither Filipino nor Tagalog these are all Visayan. On the other hand, some non-Visayan readers saw words in the Pigafetta list that resembled words in their own languages like Kinaray-a.

One reader while appreciative of the column, expressed shock that the INQUIRER published the anatomical terms that would make his grandmother blush in shame. Well, I once did a study on curse words using early Tagalog-Spanish and discovered that Philippine anatomical terms were so unmentionable and unprintable in Castillian they were all rendered in Latin! In a similar way, Rizal commented on the English translation of Morga by Stanley stating that the sexual parts were left untranslated in the original Spanish. Perhaps this is an example of Victorian prudishness of the same type that transformed chicken breasts and thighs into "white meat" and "dark meat."

Fortunately, my editors are not as squeamish or my text would have people filling in the blanks when the characters change to !"#$%&'? as is often done in Ramon Tulfo's column. Professor P. N. Abinales of Kyoto University, whose mother tongue is Visayan, sent a brief but erudite e-mail that merits being quoted in full because the unmentionable word can be used in more than one way:

"A slight correction to a Visayan word you cited in your extremely interesting essay on hair care and language. 'Billat' is a misspelling of 'bilat' and according to the Southeast Asian linguist Prof. John Wolff of Cornell University, it does not only mean 'cunt of a person' (Wolff's definition) but also 'profane exclamation,' an 'expression indicating disbelief' like '*Bilat! asa man ku mutuu adtu* (Bilat! Why should I believe in that)!' It could also mean an expression of exasperation: '*Bilat! Nasipyat pa gyud da* (Bilat! I missed that)!' as well as alienation from work '*Nagakabilatbilat ku sa trabahu dinhi* (I'm swamped with work here)!' Of course the extremely popular '*Bilat sa imong ina* (You son of a bitch)!'"

While reading the above and sending short replies to all the readers who took the trouble to send e-mail, two thoughts came to mind: How was Enrique de Malacca, Magellan's "slave," able to communicate in Cebu? Were his translations accurate or did the language he speak have what we call "false friends" or words that look and sound the same but draw different meanings? These "false friends" can partly explain why Filipinos have a wide scope for humor and wordplay. When making jokes and puns we move seamlessly through more than one language. Crossing-over from one language to the next results in "false friends," providing situations for amusing miscommunication.

On the road in Manila I often come across men tearing up a perfectly good concrete or newly asphalted road. To warn motorists, a sign is set up a few meters away that reads "Slow Men At Work." Depending on the emphasis or where you stop reading, the same sign can mean an order to slow down and avoid the men at work or that slow men are at work. Remember the Rosanna Roces film title that went unnoticed by the MTRCB and the guardians of morality called "Patikim ng Pinya?" Nothing wrong with "Can I taste the Pineapple?" but again depending on how the title is read, the meaning changes. Again on the road, a Japanese bulldozer is making way for a flood control or sewage project, the machine is aptly branded "IHI." Then there are those multi-colored multi-flavored lollipops of Spanish make called "Chupa Chups" that mean something in the colloquial I will leave untranslated here.

Somehow the humor is rooted in sex or toilet functions. Young people today use the term "*ek-ek*" a lot without thinking about the origin of the term now hidden by inverting the letters. The same with the old term to chill out, "*mag lamierda tayo*" which is used so innocently by a generation so removed from Spanish they don't realize that *mierda* (Spanish) or *merde* (French) is the word for excrement. The fun is doubled when the Pinoy goes abroad.

Here in Japan, I can compile enough English translations of Japanese for a rib-tickling book. My favorite *yakiniku* restaurant has a sign that reads: "Notice This Area Is Entranse 2nd Floor. Don't Shit Down!!" There is a bar called "Post-Coitus" and a bakery called "Titi." All around the world a Filipino encounters "false friends," he reads a sign and understands differently. *Chimay* is a popular Belgian beer that means something else to a Pinoy. A friend who suffered a bus accident in Paris resisted being brought to the nearest emergency room because it was in "Hospital Patay." Odo Lazatin of London takes guests to "Kadiri Indian Restaurant." My most memorable meal was in Lantau island, Hong Kong at the "Fu Kee Seafood Restaurant." A clothing store in New York is called "Luca Luca." So much for false friends.

* * *

Comments are welcome at aocampo@ateneo.edu

To be a dual citizen

COMMENTARY

Belinda A. Aquino

HONOLULU—Now that the Philippine Dual Citizenship Law has been passed, it would be interesting to see how many people who have become naturalized citizens of other countries will file applications to reacquire their Filipino citizenship.

My guess is that, there are some lingering, sticking points that have to be cleared up before Filipino expatriates decide to file for dual citizenship in great numbers. We cannot cover all these points here, but we will try to explore some of the major ones.

The most common issue raised is the possibility of double taxation. If you are a citizen of two countries, will you pay taxes in both countries?

The pat answer to this is that, bilateral tax treaties between the Philippines and 32 other countries including the United States, will make sure that Filipinos working in these countries will not pay tax on income earned in those countries. According to Juliet Javellana-Santos, Philippine News Manila correspondent, these countries are Australia, Austria, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, People's Republic of China, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Israel, Italy, Japan, Korea, Malaysia, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Pakistan, Poland, Romania, Russia Federation, Singapore, Spain, Swiss Confederation, Thailand, United Kingdom, United States and Yugoslavia. Santos mentions further that, according to Sen. Manuel Villar, six more countries—Vietnam, Bangladesh, Czech Republic, Nigeria, Bahrain and Sweden—are being added to this list. These conventions are being worked out, but the question remains as to how much tax Filipinos in the United States, for instance, who have reacquired their Filipino citizenship will pay to the Philippine government. Those who work in Sweden or Nigeria, for instance, will probably not elect to take up Swedish or Nigerian citizenship, so the case of dual citizenship is not at issue here. As Senate President Franklin Drilon says, "their incomes [in these foreign countries] had always been tax-free." It is argued that since liability for taxes on income is based on where one lives and not on citizenship, dual citizenship does not automatically translate into double taxation.

There is so much confusion or ambiguity that this complex issue of taxation can raise, which may deter naturalized citizens of other countries from wanting to reacquire their original citizenship. The United States, where most naturalized American citizens reside, will suffer a loss of income if this tax treaty were to be passed. Will the US government agree to this arrangement? If it does, it will argue that American citizens working in the Philippines should be exempt from paying taxes to the Philippine government. How will the tax reciprocity be worked out?

Another major issue is, whether reacquiring Filipino citizenship jeopardizes one's American citizenship. This is being raised in legal circles. Loida Nicolas-Lewis and Reuben Seguritan, both lawyers, offer their assessments.

Nicolas-Lewis says, as reported by Lito Gutierrez of the Philippine News, that "it would take more than intent or taking an oath of allegiance to another country for an American to lose citizenship." He or she must voluntarily sign papers renouncing citizenship, and this has to have the approval of the US State Department. It is therefore not that easy for an American citizen to be stripped of his or her citizenship, which has been lawfully acquired. You must yourself unequivocally give up US citizenship by signing papers.

Some experts, however, argue that in some cases, a country will automatically revoke the citizenship of one of its citizens who acquires another country's citizenship through naturalization, even if no explicit renunciation by the person concerned was made.

Seguritan, who's general counsel of the National Association of Filipino Federations in America, the only national organization of Filipino-Americans in the United States, argues that "once acquired, US citizenship is not so easily lost." This is a "constitutionally-protected right" under the 14th Amendment guaranteeing equal protection of all citizens under the law. In short, Seguritan concludes, American citizenship "may not be lost without the assent of a person."

Another major issue is military service. The concept of citizenship frequently carries with it legal obligations related to taxes as mentioned above, travel restrictions and military service. And, as a general rule, as articulated by Rich Wales, dual citizens are not entitled to any sort of special treatment by their two countries of citizenship.

"Each country will usually consider the person as if he were a citizen of that country alone." This is important to remember. It's not as though, the interests of both countries are taken into consideration, even if these interests coincide. "Thus," continues Wales, "a dual citizen could possibly find that a country which considers him a citizen, but in which he does not live, expects him to pay taxes (possibly in addition to taxes he is already paying in his country of residence); considers him liable to be drafted into its army (even if he has already served or is currently serving in the other country's army); and may forbid him to travel to certain countries, including possibly his other country of citizenship."

Such situations are alleviated by tax treaties and other conventions, but, Wales concludes, "conflicts could (and sometimes do) occur. And the hassles one could get into may not be worth the supposed advantages of being a dual citizen. It can get messy.

Still, many people find distinct advantages in dual citizenship because it offers greater flexibility in their choice of work and where to live.

My unsolicited advice is that, it would be in the best interest of anyone contemplating dual or multiple citizenship to examine carefully the pros and cons of such a course of action, which can get sticky legally or otherwise. As Wales notes, "countries usually frame their citizenship laws with little or no regard for the citizenship laws of other countries."

Belinda A. Aquino is professor of Political Science and Asian Studies at the University of Hawaii at Manoa, where she is also director of the Center for Philippine Studies.

THEY SAID

Saved by prayer

"We resorted to prayers and prayers saved us."

—Former President Corazon Aquino on her source of strength that enabled her to survive several coup d'etats

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LETTERS

Need for national unity

KING Solomon once said, "Look at the ants, learn from them so you will prosper."

The ants are one of the smallest creatures God created, but they are able to survive and live in dry or rainy season. This is because they are so united, have one goal, have discipline as we see them follow one path, and they are industrious, indefatigable creatures, always on the move. They help each other carry the load when one of them can't.

We Filipinos are the exact opposite of the ants. We have no unity, no common goal, no discipline. Selfish and uncooperative, we are always fighting about trivial issues. We are so divided, always paddling our own canoes and minding our own business. We have not learned to work together and to pool our resources together. There is too much bickering in both upper and lower houses. Our presidential candidates are throwing mud at each other. The nation is so confused as to who's telling the truth.

In the south, we have the Christian-Muslim conflict. The enemy of Christianity is Satan and his evil works; so is Islam's. Both religion teaches the value of goodness and kindness to the poor, the way to heaven. Yet, Christians and Muslims cannot see eye to eye and hate each other instead of Satan and his evil works. Satan must be laughing at the top of his voice and saying, "Come on children of God, kill each other."

When will we realize that we are all brothers and sisters under the Fatherhood of God? When shall we turn our firearms into plows so we can build instead of destroy this beautiful country?

Instead of fighting each other, we must learn to live in peace and adopt some practices that are good in the Muslim faith. Christians usually pray individually while our Muslim brothers pray as one nation. When I was in Saudi Arabia, people everywhere would bow down in prayer at the sound of sirens in the morning, noon and at dusk. Whether in their mosques or in their work, they pray together all at the same time. No wonder God has blessed their nation with so much oil. When will we learn to pray as one nation?

The Lord says in II Chronicles 7:14; "If my people who are called by my name shall humble themselves and pray and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land."

What is usually happening in our physical world is rooted in the spiritual realm. The solid foundation in nation-building is character-building. Our bad habits, dishonest attitudes, selfishness lead to our moral and spiritual decadence.

As Abraham Lincoln said during the civil war in America, "A house divided against itself cannot stand. As long as we are divided, we will not prosper as a nation."

Let us all pray for God's spirit to bind us together in love, as we pursue our dreams to have a prosperous nation.

—**ASTERIO G. SAQUING JR., M.D.,**
Banggot, Bambang, Nueva Vizcaya

A rare undying faith in our leaders

I DON'T believe our country is on the wrong path to prosperity. But how come we are always on the rack of an economic crisis? What options do we Filipinos have so that we don't have to look to a bleak future?

We are facing at this time the escalating problems of military restiveness, hunger, poverty, disease and rising criminality.

It's really unfortunate that no political leader or leaders have been able to articulate a principled vision of who we are and what kind of country we want to be in the coming decades.

It is high time for us as a people to define our goals and look for ways to reduce the scourge of poverty in our country today.

I feel a measure of hope that, despite the dreadful conditions we live in at the moment, our elected leaders cannot afford to turn a deaf ear and close their eyes to our people's plight. They will do something for their economic upliftment.

—**MEL V. CABAÑEZ,**
chair, Agsur Multi-Purpose Cooperative, Barangay 1,
San Francisco, Agusan del Sur

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More on the Pidal exposé

VOICES ON INQ7.NET

NEAL Cruz's comparison of the Jose Velarde account to the Jose Pidal account (PDI, 9/17/03) is half-baked. He might just have missed other points to consider that are essential.

He is right when he declared that both accounts used aliases and contained reportedly large sums of money. But you can see the big difference here: Joseph Estrada was the President of the Philippines while Jose Miguel Arroyo is only the husband of the President. The spouse of the President is not a public official and has no executive powers. Although he is right that Mr. Arroyo is a public figure, being the husband of the President.

Cruz also failed to see the fact that Estrada was accused of depositing money from tobacco excise tax and proceeds from *jueteng* (illegal gambling) operations to the Velarde account, which meant public funds supposed to go to the National Treasury and/or illegal funds supposedly transferred to the secret bank account of then President Estrada, while the First Gentleman allegedly only stole unspent campaign funds from his wife, and even the brightest lawyer or justice of the land has yet to say that unspent campaign money is a public fund.

If the accusations of Sen. Panfilo Lacson against the First Gentleman is true, then Mr. Arroyo wronged his wife, not the Filipino people. Poor Gloria.—**SPO3 Vito Pascasio, United Nations Police Technical Adviser, UNMISET, Ainaro District, East Timor, via e-mail**

* * *

The Arroyo brothers are fooling the people again this time. Remember Market Street in San Francisco?—**Joven Claudio, Manila, via e-mail**

* * *

You cannot blame the people and even some senators for thinking that the Senate hearing is almost synonymous to a court hearing. As a non-lawyer observer, the process in which this hearing was conducted was similar to that of a court hearing. To us, there seems to be no distinct difference from questions asked in a court of law. Even Sen. Panfilo Lacson himself was not thinking of that. He did not sound like someone who was after aiding legislation but someone who wanted to pin down or persecute some individuals. If they want people to see the difference between a court and a Senate hearing, the appropriate decorum even in terms of lead questions should show this.—**Pauline Lazaro, Singapore, via e-mail**

* * *

Cruz's last sentence in his column went like this: "When someone commits a crime, he loses any right to privacy. He becomes a public figure."

Then it follows, the first order of the day should be to prove that Ignacio Arroyo or Mike Arroyo should first be proven to have committed a crime.

Don't write as if the Arroyo brothers have committed a crime. Just show us the proof. Prove that they have committed a crime.

Until then, every person is entitled to "privacy" and the presumption of innocence.

If there is a deadlock due to the Bank Secrecy Law, tell Sen. Panfilo Lacson to take his case to the courts

That's the best way to resolve this.—**Lourdes D. Apagalang, Pasig City, via e-mail**

* * *

It is disheartening to see how our senators waste our taxes by taking advantage of the accusation made by Sen. Panfilo Lacson about the alleged Jose Pidal account.

What is disgusting is the fact that all the senators know that Lacson has his own skeletons in the closet, but in an apparent attempt to cover this, some senators even dignified the said accusation made by Lacson which was never supported by hard evidence except the photocopied documents he furnished his colleagues.

I would like to ask our senators if they can honestly say to us taxpayers that this investigation on the Jose Pidal account is being done "in aid of legislation"? If so, why don't they give priority to Lacson's Kuratong Baleleng case which came way ahead of the one on Jose Pidal?

Well, your guess is as good as mine. This is not being done for the reason that the senators would like to take advantage of the "hot issue" which they know will give them free media mileage. But the whole thing is not "in aid of legislation" but, really, "in aid of re-election."—**Simon Serrano, Mandaluyong City, via e-mail**

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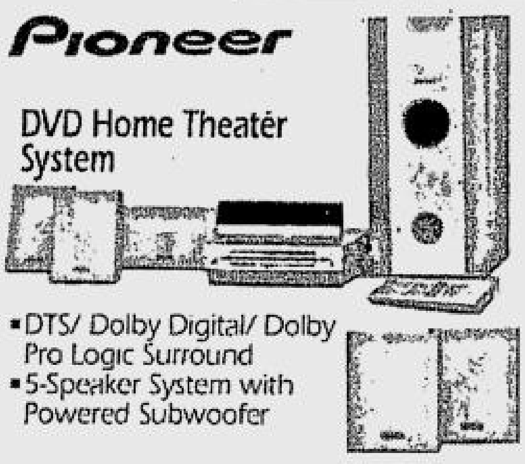

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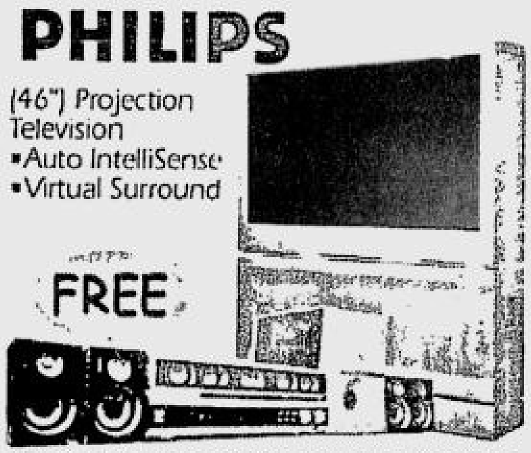

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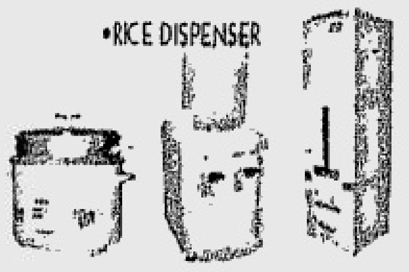

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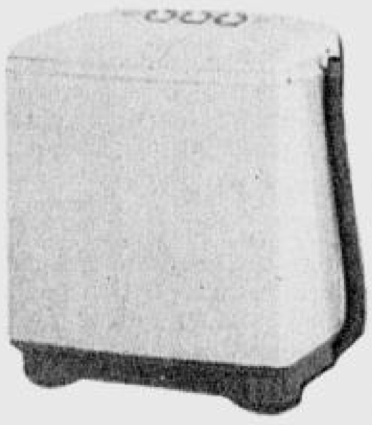

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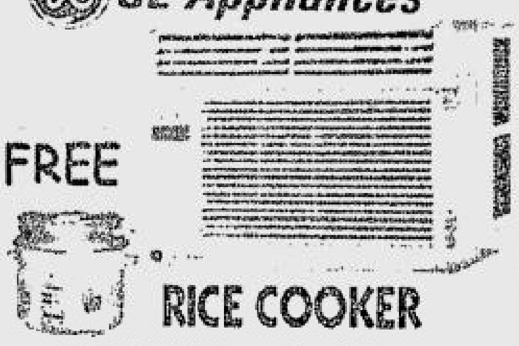

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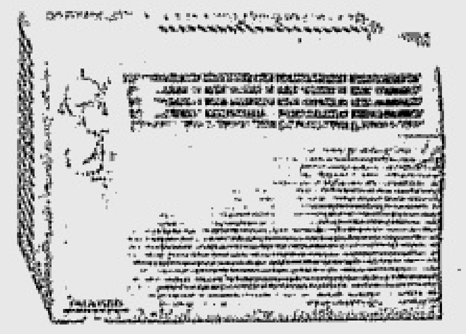

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Blast rips through Maguindanao market

PARANG, Maguindanao—A powerful bomb exploded inside the public market here around 1 a.m. yesterday, triggering panic among vendors, who were then beginning to set up their wares.

The explosion occurred four days after assassins tried to blow up Mayor Vivencio Bataga by planting explosives on a roadside leading to a church, where the executive was to attend Mass.

In yesterday's explosion, Bataga said nobody was hurt but the device, fashioned out of a 60 mm mortar shell, did not only cause damage to a pharmacy but also terrorized the residents anew.

Insp. Oscar Nantes, Parang police chief, said the powerful explosive was planted at the main entrance of the Wison Pharmacy.

Nantes quoted investigators as saying based on the design of the bomb, it was meant to kill as many people as possible.

Bataga believed the bomb attack was meant for him or his supporters or that it was planted in the market to discredit his administration's efforts to institute reforms in the town.

The mayor, who has been in the forefront of the campaign against illegal logging and illegal drugs, regularly visits the market place after his early morning exercise.

He said those responsible for the market blast could be the same group that orchestrated the three attempts on his life. *Edwin Fernandez and Rosa-May de Guzman, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

2 slain as Davao vigilantes strike

DAVAO CITY—After more than a month of hiatus, vigilantes are back as they shot dead two victims and wounded another one Monday night.

This came as local officials were trading barbs on labeling the city as a murder capital following the spate of killings, including the slaying of broadcaster and former councilor Juan "Jun" Pala Jr.

The tag "murder capital" was brought up during the Sept. 9 City Council session, three days after Pala's death, when Councilor Mabel Laman said the unabated series of "summary executions" of suspected criminals is making the city deserving of the label.

Laman cited as example the killing of her first husband, former councilor Cesar Robillo in 1990, that remains unsolved.

Former Mayor Benjamin de Guzman said the label was only right for the city as the current administration is not inclined to solve and stop the killings.

De Guzman said it was time that the people should join hands to fight Mayor Rodrigo Duterte's alleged reign of terror. *Anthony Allada, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

Misamis Occidental board suspends fugitive mayor

OROQUIETA CITY—The provincial board of Misamis Occidental suspended for a year a fugitive town mayor for incurring a long string of unauthorized absences and gross negligence of duty.

Convening as a committee of the whole, the Sangguniang Panlalawigan (SP) "finds overwhelming evidence to support" the administrative charges against Sapang Dalaga town Mayor Pacita Yap.

The administrative complaint was filed by Vice Mayor Manuel Animas and three other town residents on May 14, 2003.

In a resolution, the provincial legislators said the board "feels (that) the gravity of the offenses committed . . . would warrant the penalty of removal from office."

Yap went into hiding following the issuance of two warrants for her arrest for murder charges. The first warrant was issued on Aug. 23, 2001 and the other on Sept. 21, 2001, all by Calamba town regional trial court judge Paulino Conol.

A day before the first warrant's issuance, Yap filed a leave of absence to be effective the following day until Sept. 30, 2001, or a period of 27 working days. A week after, Gov. Loreto Ocampos designated Animas as acting municipal mayor "until the resumption of duties of the incumbent mayor."

During the investigation of the complaint, Animas told the SP that Yap "has never reported to office" since Sept. 30, 2001.

But the SP deemed as approved Yap's application for leave of absence without pay from Jan. 2, 2002 until April 30, 2002.

The SP counted a total of 313 absences by Yap.

Animas said because of this string of absences, Yap has become negligent. *Ryan Rosauro, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

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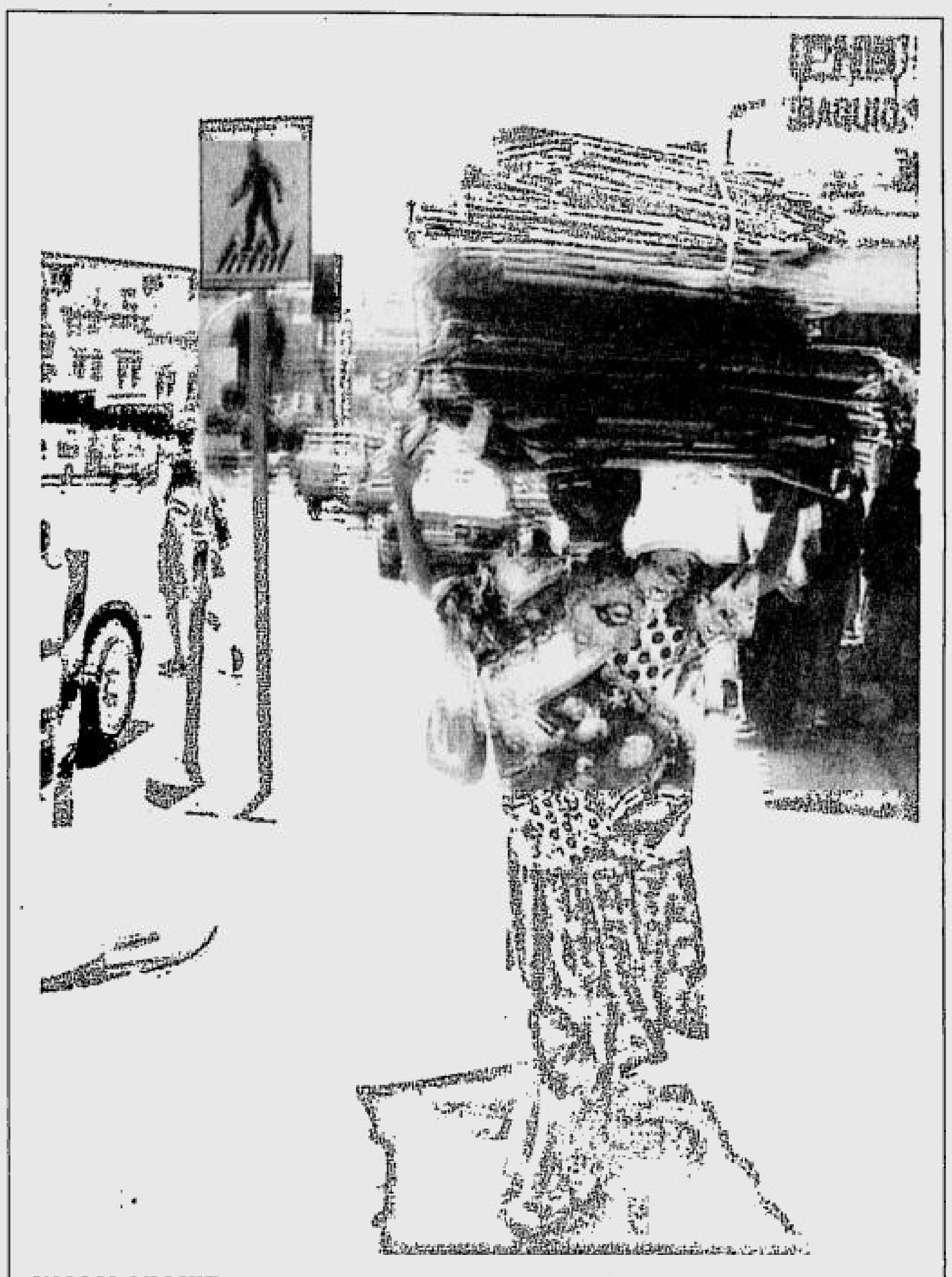


WALK OF LIFE

TOOTS SOBERANO/PDI NORTHERN LUZON BUREAU

As more and more people become jobless, scenes like this woman balancing a pile of cardboard on her head to sell them on the streets of Baguio City would become more familiar.

Proposal to strip local gov'ts of power on mining stirs debate

BAGUIO CITY—Mine industry stakeholders have demanded changes in the local government code during a Luzon mining conference here in a bid to remove the governors' power to control mining activities in their provinces.

The proposal presented to the National Minerals Policy (NMP) review workshop on Tuesday was provoked by the ongoing controversy over large-scale sand and gravel mining application for Pampanga's lahar towns that had turned into a legal battle between the government and Gov. Manuel Lapid.

Lapid won an injunction against the Macapagal administration, which had turned over to the Mines and Geosciences Bureau (MGB) the management of Pampanga's quarry trade and its taxes by virtue of Executive Order No. 220.

Lapid had asserted Section 26 of the Local Government Code, which grants local government supervision over activities that would affect or damage the local environment.

This provision grants governors control over mining and quarrying activities that do not exceed five-hectares.

Elvira Gozun-Sumadchat, who has one of three pending Mineral Production Service Applications (MPSA) for the areas ravaged by lahar, initiated on Tuesday the proposal for the NMP to solicit amendments to the local government code.

She said local government officials have been abusing their authority over mining and quarrying operations for years by withholding permission from their critics, and by issuing permits to selected quarry contractors.

Sumadchat said her own MPSA had been pending for 13 years at the MGB because of political pressure.

Dr. Rodolfo Obial, chair of the Geologists Society of the Philippines, backed Sumadchat. Obial said local politics could hurt efforts by government to manage an environmentally-safe mine extraction process.

But environmentalists are opposed to this suggestion, saying the local government's power to supervise or endorse mining and quarry operations merely enforces a community's right to protect its environment.

"We agree that provincial politics has become parochial and is affecting mining, but we want the solutions to these problems to go through a more democratic process," said Catalino Corpuz, coordinator for Minewatch Asia-Pacific and a member of Tebtebba Foundation, a United Nations-based lobby group for indigenous rights. *Vincent Cabreza, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

5 hurt in fracas over unpaid gov't bonuses

By Jun Malig, *PDI Central Luzon Desk*

ANGELES CITY—Five workers were hurt when policemen tried to stop members of an employees' union here from picketing city hall on Wednesday to pressure Mayor Carmelo Lazatin to release to them P5,000 in bonuses each from President Macapagal-Arroyo.

"There were shoving and some exchange of blows until union members were able to enter the city hall ground," said Jose Pring, vice president of the Association of Government Employees for a New and Dynamic Angeles City (Agenda).

Agenda president Isabel Ruiz said they would continue to stage pickets and noise barrages until the city government "actually and satisfactorily complies with its obligations" to the city hall employees. They said they were supposed to get the P5,000 bonus on Dec. 15 last year.

Bayan Muna Rep. Satur Ocampo, who attended the Agenda general assembly on Tuesday, appealed to Lazatin to grant the employees' bonus to foster a harmonious partnership between the city hall and its workers.

Earlier, Lazatin warned that he would file administrative charges against Agenda members for their alleged "insubordination and threats of disruption of public service."

Quoting Lazatin, city administrator Alberto Suller said charges against Agenda members would be filed before the Civil Service Commission as Agenda members had been ignoring Lazatin's order to remove the placards and streamers inside the city hall.

Radio station puts up fight

PAGADIAN CITY—The management of the University of Mindanao Broadcasting Network (UMBN) has sought President Macapagal-Arroyo's intervention over the order of Valencia City Mayor Jose Galario to close its sister radio station dxMV Radio Ukay.

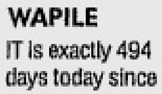
Roland Raval, UMBN vice president for operation, yesterday sent a letter to the President asking for her intervention.

Raval also denounced Galario's move as illegal which, he said, "does not only constitute suppression of the press and freedom of expression in gross violation of the law, but also constitutes excessive grave abuse of power and authority."

He also condemned Galario for using the local police when he ordered the closure of the station on Wednesday morning.

DxMV station manager Nonet Rosales said they have defied Galario's order and continued with their regular programming. *Hernan de la Cruz, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

Countdown for Justice



WAPILE

IT is exactly 494 days today since Pagadian journalist Edgar Damalerio was slain in cold blood. The principal suspect, police officer Guillermo Wapile, remains at large after escaping while in the custody of the police.

Fate of Davao town councilor tagged drug lord uncertain

SAN ISIDRO, Davao Oriental—The fate of a councilor of this town who was tagged by police officials as a drug lord remains uncertain.

Chief Insp. Boy Gomez, the town's chief of police, said missing municipal councilor Gavino Generalao could have been summarily executed by the vigilante group Davao Death Squad.

But Senior Supt. Catalino Cuy, provincial police chief, said Generalao is still alive and is on the run because of his alleged involvement in the illegal drugs trade.

Cuy also said Generalao was the "top drug lord in Davao Oriental."

But Gomez said Generalao's relatives also believe that the councilor had been summarily executed.

Cuy said he "learned just recently that Generalao was just in hiding."

Generalao was declared missing in May this year but his family kept his disappearance a secret, prompting the police and media to believe that he was kidnapped.

"But there was no ransom demand up to now. So his family has already ruled out the kidnap-for-ransom angle," said Noel Sibala, vice president of the Municipal Councilors' League.

"We also heard that Generalao was engaged in illegal drugs. But it is the job of the police to arrest him if they have evidence against him," Sibala said.

In May, Generalao's relatives reported to the police that armed men snatched the councilor at the Victoria Plaza Mall in Davao City.

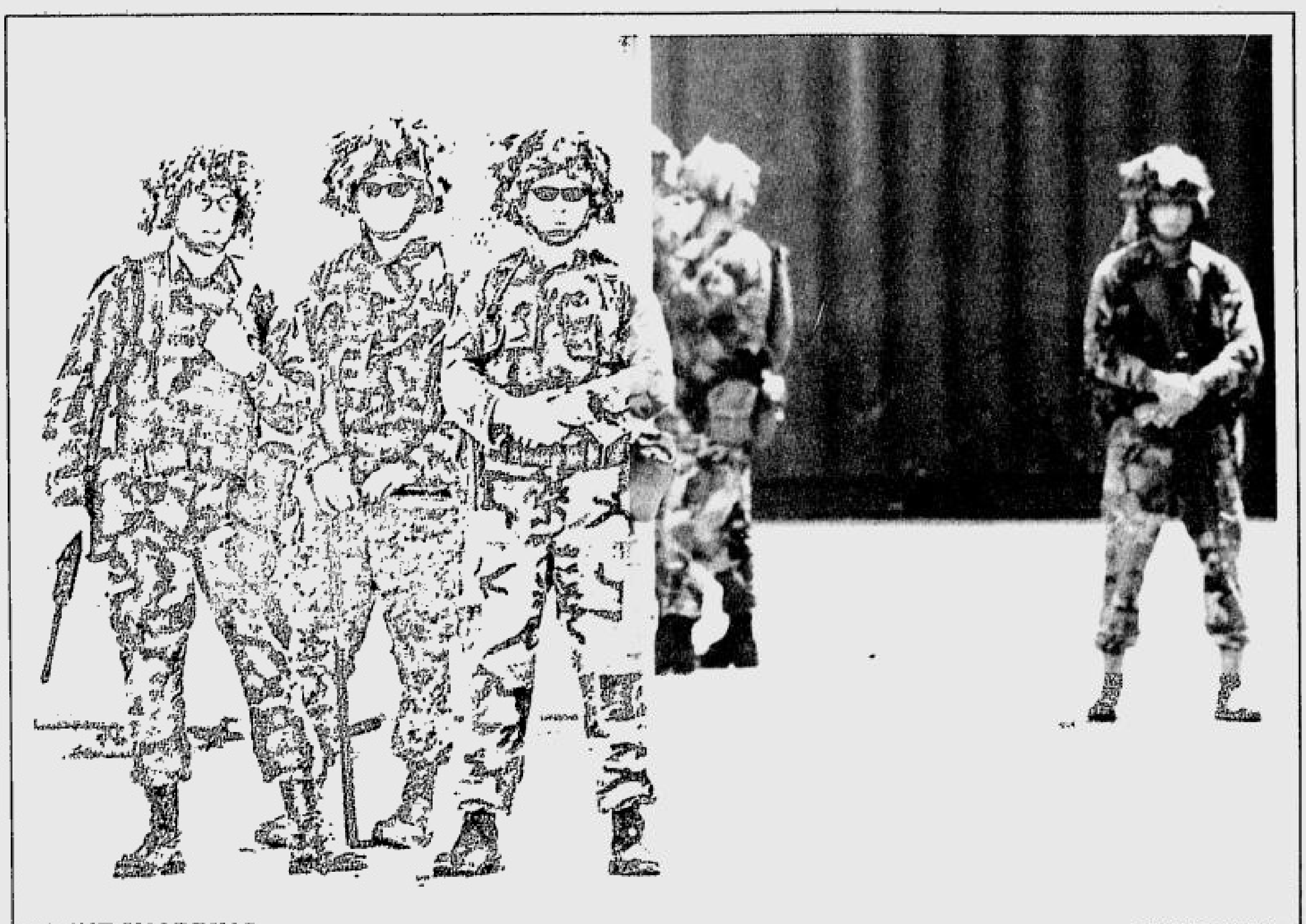
Cuy, however, insisted that based on "highly reliable sources," Generalao had gone into hiding.

"He was not killed by the Davao Death Squad. He is in hiding and he is being monitored," Cuy said.

In General Santos City, at least 125 persons have been summarily executed since November 2001.

Supt. Efren Alcuizar, Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency chief in Central Mindanao, told reporters that all those killed were in the police list of suspected drug pushers.

Ferdinand Zuasola and Aquiles Zonio, PDI Mindanao Bureau



TIGHT GUARDING

DENNIS SABANGAN/EPA

American soldiers take positions at the Subic port to guard against possible attacks on their colleagues who were disembarking from their ship Sept. 14. The Americans are here to take part in military exercises with Filipino soldiers.

SMUGGLING SYNDICATE

Colleague tagged in slaying of customs men

By Jhunnex Napallacan
PDI Visayas Bureau

CEBU CITY—A customs official has been identified as the mastermind in the ambush-slaying of deputy customs collector for operations Eduardo "Wewe" Lao and customs appraiser Bennet Soreno on July 24.

Arnold Famor, a customs examiner of the Cebu Customs Office, was tagged by one of the two suspected gunmen who were arrested by the National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) Tuesday afternoon.

Juan Jesus Vergel de Dios, 37, driver of the Customs Intelligence and Investigation Service (CIIS), blurted the name of Famor on Wednesday when reporters asked him who ordered the ambush.

When asked what could be the motive of the killing, De Dios said it was "personal."

When Reynaldo Esmeralda, NBI director for Central Visayas, showed Famor's picture, De Dios positively identified him.

But De Dios claimed that it was Rustico Fernandez, messenger in the CIIS, who received the order from Famor, not him.

Famor was not available for comment yesterday. Florentino Ortega, chief of the assessment division, said Famor left the office at about 1 p.m. and did not tell anyone where he went.

Esmeralda said they would not file charges against Famor yet but would instead ask Customs Collector Billy Bibit to bring Famor to the NBI to issue a statement.

Three counts of murder and frustrated murder were filed yesterday against De Dios and Fernandez before the regional trial court.

Esmeralda said they were also investigating CIIS head Felix Espino, the immediate superior of the two suspects.

Espino, whose relief will take effect on Friday, said he welcomed the investigation but had nothing to do with the Lao ambush.

Two men fired at the Isuzu Trooper of Lao at about 6 p.m. of July 24 on Osmeña Boulevard near the Police Regional Office-Central Visayas headquarters.

Alain Dave Ravina, 16 and a senior high school student of the Abellana National School, was killed after he was hit by a stray bullet.

During the media presentation on Wednesday, De Dios was very emotional and appeared reluctant in answering questions from reporters.

But later, he tagged Fernandez as the one who shot Lao and Soreno. He claimed that he merely drove the motorcycle that was used as get-away vehicle.

De Dios said he was given P5,000 for the job. He did not know how much Fernandez got from Famor.

Fernandez vehemently denied De Dios' statements, saying he had nothing to do with the killings.

Esmeralda said the ambush was linked to the seized shipment of rice in two containers vans kept at the Cebu port.

Two of the vans disappeared on Sept. 7 from the Cebu International Port, which prompted the NBI to conduct the investigation.

Fernandez surrendered to the NBI last week after his name was linked to the disappearance of the container vans.

He had admitted that he was approached by one Winley de la Fuente to help facilitate the illegal release of the vans. Fernandez then introduced De la Fuente to Arnold Glodove, an operator of Oriental Port and Allied Services Corp. (Opascor).

Fernandez, De la Fuente, Glodove and two other Opascor workers Arnel Ondoy and Fernando Feliciano were charged with theft for the missing container vans on Friday. They posted P40,000 bail for their temporary liberty.

Feuds force Capiz police chief to quit

ROXAS CITY—Senior Supt. Efren Quintos, the controversial police chief of Capiz, was relieved effective Sept. 15.

Capiz Gov. Vicente Bermejo said it was Quintos himself who asked to be relieved because he felt he could no longer be effective in discharging his duties due to his strained relationship with some local executives and some police officers under his command.

Quintos and Roxas City Mayor Antonio del Rosario have been at odds after the mayor criticized the operations of the anti-drug Provincial Special Operations Group, which Quintos had formed shortly after he assumed his post in May last year.

The rift intensified when the mayor accused Quintos of not giving him proper courtesy when Quintos put up police outposts in Barangays 9, 10 and Punta Tabuc, known as drug havens here.

Senior Supt. Norlito Bautista, PNP community relations officer for Western Visayas and the former police director of Antique, will replace Quintos.

A formal turnover of the command will be held today at Camp Teodorico Apil in Barangay Lanot, this city.

Quintos, who assumed office as Capiz police director on May 28 last year, stayed in the post six months short of the expiration of his two-year tour of duty.

Early in his term, Quintos found himself embroiled in controversy when some policemen in Capiz came up with a petition letter accusing him of being overbearing.

The petition surfaced in January this year shortly after Quintos linked six unidentified policemen to the illegal drug trade in Capiz.

The unidentified petitioners also accused Quintos of, among others, subjecting them to humiliation even for minor lapses and unfairly branding policemen as protectors of drugs and other illegal activities through the media.

Gerry Pagharion, PDI Visayas Bureau

Davao official hits delay in airport opening

DAVAO CITY—Davaoeños are missing the boat in the competitive world of tourism promotion because of the undue delay in the opening of the Davao International Airport (DIA) terminal.

Councilor Peter Laviña accused the Department of Transportation and Communication (DOTC) functionaries of economic sabotage for the delay in the terminal's opening.

"The DOTC has announced many times the schedule of the opening of the new terminal. And many times, local officials and tourism industry leaders have been trumpeting the same. But alas, opening (sic) is nowhere in sight. Not even this year," Laviña said.

Laviña said Davao City is not only being deprived of the use of the new airport facility but its taxpayers now pay for the loan used to build it.

He said the city is uncertain of becoming the gateway to the East Asean Growth Area (Eaga) or inviting more foreign airlines to fly to Davao.

He said that in a one-on-one meeting with Brunei's Sultan Bolkiah, President Macapagal-Arroyo brought up the possibility of the Royal Brunei Airlines flying to Davao City.

"But we can only frown at the fact that while the President herself is doing a hard job in selling the airport, her underlings at the DOTC are doing practically nothing to make the product attractive or workable," he said.

Laviña also raised concern that Davao City may not be able to take part in the next round of talks when the Philippine Air Panel meet with their South Korean counterparts.

"How can we push (for) Davao City in these new talks with the same sugarcoating of having a new airport?" he said.

He said there are no signs of the airport opening soon.

PDI Mindanao Bureau

Cop wounded in NPA attack on Ilocos town dies

STA. LUCIA, Ilocos Sur—One of the five policemen wounded in Monday night's attack of suspected New People's Army rebels on the Sta. Lucia police station died on Wednesday night.

Senior Supt. Mario Subagan, Ilocos Sur police director, said PO3 Alberto Barbado of Sta. Cruz town died of shrapnel wounds at the Lorma Hospital in San Fernando City.

The other fatalities were SPO2 Ricardo Isidro and SPO2 Simeon Aquino. Wounded were SPO4 Felipe Doles, PO2 Andrew Rabang, PO2 Rodrigo Masanda and SPO4 Danilo Bilaoen.

Although PO3 Jose Arce was unharmed from the attack, he and other injured policemen would be investigated to determine if they had incurred lapses during the attack.

Subagan said initial investigation showed that some of the policemen were sleeping before the attack.

"Their liabilities would range from suspension to dismissal from service," he told the INQUIRER.

Arce admitted that when he heard people shouting "Isidro" about three times before a burst of gunfire, he ran and sought cover.

THE POLICE station of Sta. Lucia town after the NPA attack.

LEONCIO BALBIN JR./PDI NORTHERN LUZON BUREAU

Town officials have declared an "all-out war" against terrorism after the Monday night attack.

"Residents and officials of Sta. Lucia are one in waging an all-out war against terrorism. We are devastated with what the NPA rebels had done," Mayor Ferdinand Hernaez told the INQUIRER.

Leoncio Balbin Jr., PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

Another multinational firm plans to plant Bt-corn

ANGADANAN, Isabela—Unfazed by opposition from the church and militant groups, a new multinational agricultural company wants to plant genetically modified organism-laced crops, particularly bacillus thuringiensis-injected corn (Bt-corn), in three villages in Isabela.

Rogelio Palasigui, chair of the National Committee on Biosafety of the Philippines, said Syngenta Philippines Inc. would plant Bt-corn crops starting next month in 12 trial sites in the country, three of which will be in Isabela.

Bt-corn and non-Bt-corn crops will be planted in each 1,000-square-meter trial sites at Barangay District 1 in Angadanan town; Barangay Carabbatan Punta in Cauayan City; and at the Isabela State University's experiment research station in Echague town.

The company will also plant Bt-corn crops in Barangay Panaga in Lanac town and Namagbagan in Sta. Maria town, both in Pangasinan; Barangay Lindaban in Manolo Fortich town in Bukidnon; Barangay Banga in Wao town in Lanao del Sur; Barangay Malinao in Banisilan town in North Cotabato; BPI experiment station in Bago Oshiro in Davao City; Barangay Reyes in Banga town in South Cotabato, and Barangay Salaio in Esperanza town in Sultan Kudarat.

The field trials will end in October next year.

The firm's field trial sites will test Bt-corn against the Asiatic corn borer (ostrinia furnacalis guenee), which is the major pest hounding corn crops, and evaluate the corn crop's effect on varied field and agro-climatic conditions.

Just like the Bt-corn-laced Yieldgard variety of Monsanto, the Bt-11 corn is projected to have a simplified insect control due to its built-in resistance against Asiatic corn borer.

Proponents claimed that the corn variety is harmless to other insects, animals and humans and offers alternative to farmers.

The Bt-corn technology was reported to be "highly compatible" with the integrated pest management and other crop protection strategies.

Proponents described the Bt-corn variety as high yielding, "safe as conventional corn" and passed the safety assessment of regulatory authorities in the United States, Argentina and Canada where Bt-corn varieties have been grown commercially since 1996.

But Melchor Batalla, Danggayan Dagiti Mannalon iti Cagayan Valley regional chair, assailed the continued field tests of Bt-corn. *Villamor Visaya Jr., PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

GMA flying to Sulu to oversee hunt for Al-Ghozi

From page A1

John Howard.

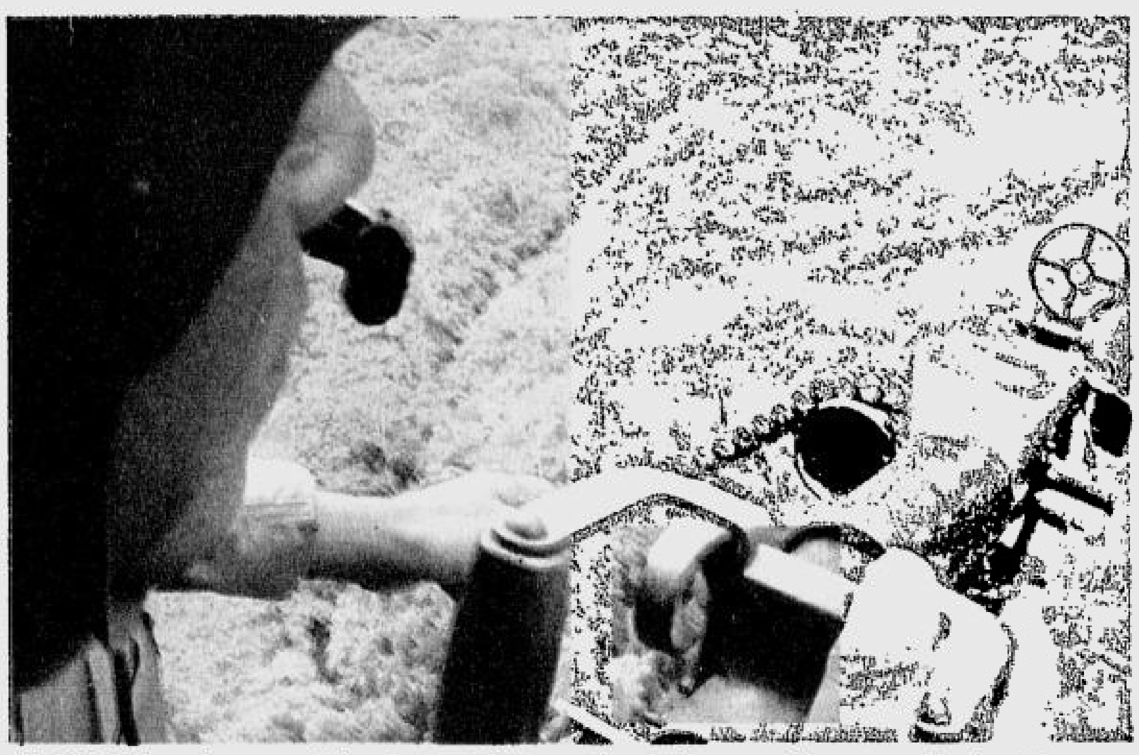
One of the other escapees, Abdulmukin Ong Edris, was recaptured by the military at Sultan Naga Dimaporo last month. He was killed while supposedly trying to escape again.

Authorities clamped a dragnet on the Lanao provinces after Edris claimed that Al-Ghozi was hiding in Lanao del Norte, allegedly in the company of members of the secessionist Moro Islamic Liberation Front.

Al-Ghozi's escape from the Philippine National Police headquarters has been criticized by the US and Australian governments and continues to be a big source of embarrassment for the Macapagal administration.

Despite this, however, the President has kept her confidence in PNP Director General Hermogenes Ebdane. "You cannot judge him on the basis of one incident because he has also made some headway in the antidrugs and antikidnapping campaigns," she told reporters.

After visiting Jolo and Tungawan, the President is expected to spend the night in Zamboanga Monday. She will leave for Manila Tuesday and will embark on a six-day trip to New York, Rome and Paris starting Thursday.



AL-GHOZI, here they come. Helicopter gunship scours a forested area over Siocon town, Zambo del Sur. AFP

Al-Ghozi has also been charged, along with Jemaah Islamiyah operations chief Hambali, for the Rizal Day bombings in Metro Manila in December 2000.

Also known as Riduan Isamuddin, Hambali was arrested in Thailand last month and is now in US custody.

The Jemaah Islamiyah, believed to be the Southeast Asian arm of the terrorist network al-Qaida, is blamed for the bombings in Bali, Indonesia, that killed 202 people last October. *With an AFP report*

With reference to the La Posada ad today in the Lifestyle Section,
please disregard the announcement on the 1st Brittany Football Cup.

Due to bad weather, the 1st Brittany Football Cup to be held on 21 September, 2003, Sunday is postponed.

Brittany 1st Football Cup

New playdate is
October 5, 2003, Sunday
La Posada
Activity Area

Abbas, Moro leader . . .

From page A1

failure at the Makati Medical Center on Wednesday night. He was 60 years old.

ABBAS

Abbas, who finished law at the University of the Philippines, was serving as an education undersecretary at the time of his death.

Considered one of the "most brilliant" Muslims of his generation, Abbas was a prominent student activist at the state university, and was even then organizing Muslim youths who were beginning to assert the rights of and demanding better treatment for Filipino Muslims.

Nur Misuari, who founded the Moro National Liberation Front in 1969, was his UP contemporary.

A member of the traditional elite Maranaw families of Lanao, Abbas was the first Muslim to be elected president of the UP Law Student Council and to head the National Union of Students of the Philippines. He was also a campus speaker and debater, representing the Philippines in international debating competitions.

He was at forefront of efforts to unite and organize Muslims for the Moro war for liberation that was precipitated by, among other significant events, the Jabidah massacre of 1968, the elections of 1971 and the declaration of martial law in 1972.

Abbas, with other Muslim leaders, organized the Islamic Directorate of the Philippines to serve as a center for receiving international assistance for the Moros after the war for liberation began. He helped organize the massive rallies in Manila against the Marcos martial law regime.

He later served as secretary of the Bangsa Moro Liberation Organization (BMLO), later renamed Bangsa Muslimin Islamic Liberation Organization (BMILO), which considered itself as the umbrella organization of all the Moro liberation forces.

After martial law was declared in September 1972, Abbas went to Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, to present the Moro case to the Organization of Islamic Conference of Muslim-led countries. He submitted a 200-page report of the Moro struggle to the then OIC secretary general, Malaysian Prime Minister Tunku Abdul-Rahman.

When Salamat broke away from the MNLF to form the MILF, Abbas tried to bring the two factions together by heading the MNLF Reformist Group.

As part of his goal of advancing Muslim rights, Abbas held a succession of government posts under different administrations, the most recent of which was that of education undersecretary for Muslim affairs.

He served as secretary of the Commission on National Integration from 1966 to 1969 and of the Senate committee on national cultural communities until 1970. From 1972 to 1975, he was special assistant for Muslim affairs in the Office of the Executive Secretary, and thereafter consultant on Muslim affairs in the Office of the President and supervising officer of the Presidential Task Force for the Reconstruction and Development of Mindanao.

In 1976, he became a professor at the Mindanao State University and the dean of the public administration and community development department. From 1976 to 1980, he was a professor at the King Abdul Aziz University in Jeddah.

After a stint as corporate executive in Malaysia, Abbas returned to the Philippines in 1987 to set up a law firm, Abbas and Associates.

Abbas is survived by his wife, Baby, and six children. One of his sons and namesake is the student regent of the MSU. He will be buried in his hometown Dayawan, Marawi, Lanao del Sur. *With Samira Gutoc*

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Government Warning: Cigarette smoking is dangerous to your health.

Full election automation too risky, Angara warns

BECAUSE there is a "great risk" that automated counting machines could cause a failure of elections in 2004, Congress is expected to come out with a joint resolution seeking to stop their first-time application nationwide.

Instead, Congress will propose that these automated counting machines be operated in selected areas such as Metro Manila and the Autonomous Region of Muslim Mindanao come 2004, according to Sen. Edgardo Angara, co-chair of the Oversight Committee on Electoral Modernization.

At a news conference, Angara said that after three public hearings, the oversight committee found "most disturbing" the fact that only one counting machine can be given to one city or one municipality, in the 190,000 counting machines to be purchased by the Commission on Elections. They also found out that of the 30 machines initially delivered, nine were found to be "non-operational" by the Department of Science and Technology. *Christine O. Avendaño*

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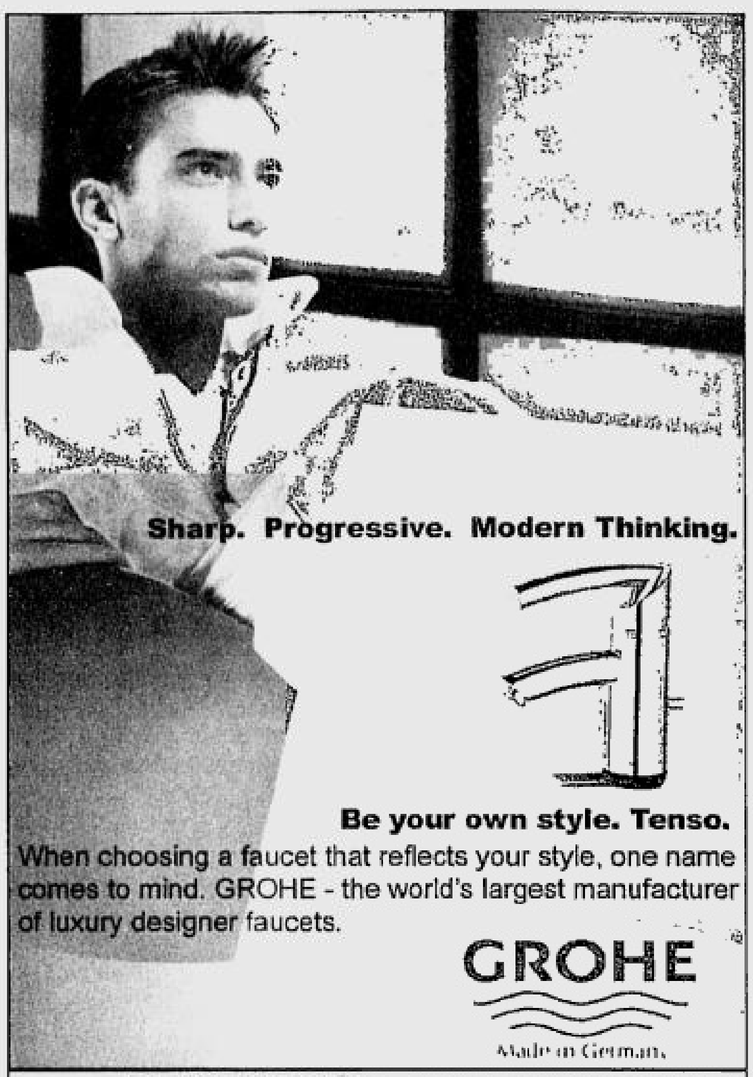
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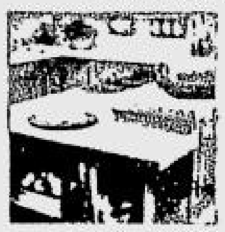

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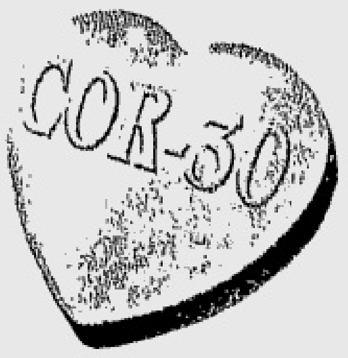

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Source: *New England Journal of Medicine*

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KARANGALAN BLISS

Untended, untenanted, unlit

THE MEDIUM-RISE housing units in Barangay Manggahan, Pasig City may be lovely to look at, but may be impossible to live in at present.

ERNIE U. SARMIENTO

By Luige del Puerto

SIX HUNDRED families stand to gain from the huge housing project at the edge of Pasig City. All but a few have been denied.

The lone guard who secures the area said that he could count with the fingers of his hand the number of households now living in the sprawling compound.

The Karangalan Bliss housing project in Barangay Manggahan, near the boundary of Pasig and Cainta, has been plagued with problems from the moment construction first began in 1998.

The housing project was meant to house the families of 600 policemen, teachers and government employees from Pasig City. In 2001, National Housing Authority officials have announced the project's partial completion.

They did not elaborate how partial it was.

As it turned out, only six out of 10 buildings—with 60 units each—have been completed.

To date, less than 85 units are occupied. This means that 515 newly-built units could be going to waste.

On Aug. 19, President Macapagal-Arroyo inaugurated the P256-million medium-rise housing (MRH) project, in line with her Strong Republic policy.

But residents of the compound are unsure.

They said that there are many reasons why the housing project is the way it is now.

Residents' protest

When construction was first announced way back in 1998, some residents of Karangalan Village—who themselves were beneficiaries of government housing—protested against the project.

"We were first told that they [NHA officials] were going to erect a recreational facility in the area," said Prody Cabral, chair of Phase 2-C2 and one of the first community leaders who opposed the project. "We would really have welcomed that. We need a park here."

Cabral moved into the area in 1989 from Tondo, Manila.

She said most residents at the time were against the project because the streets in the area were too narrow and the compound was already too crowded—with not enough space to accommodate 600 more families.

Cabral also said that the construction of the compound was not part of the "original plan."

"As a community, we thought that space was for our use," Cabral said. "We could only imagine the garbage and the lack of breathing space that the project would bring with it."

In October 1999, residents sought the intervention of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) after learning that the NHA had not applied for an environment compliance certificate (ECC), a requirement in building houses, Cabral said.

The construction halted, giving residents more time to press against the project. But after paying the fines, the NHA obtained the necessary ECC.

The residents next filed a case against NHA officials with the Ombudsman in the same year.

Nothing irregular

But the residents failed to convince the Ombudsman that the NHA erred in constructing the project. The Ombudsman ruled that there was nothing irregular in the project and that it should go on.

The NHA struggled on to finish the project. But more problems lay ahead.

When construction stopped momentarily, seven families had moved in to squat in the compound.

The NHA could not just evict them, said Engr. Ma. Theresa Siap, NHA district director.

According to PD 7279 or the Lina Law, a relocation site must first be found for squatters before they can be evicted.

The NHA finally managed to relocate the families last year.

By this time, construction was already behind schedule.

Another wall

Then the NHA hit another wall when it sought an occupancy permit from Pasig City.

To obtain a permit, fire experts from city hall must first survey the buildings to ensure people will not get trapped inside in case of fire. They found a fault in the design of the fire exit, and ordered the NHA to modify it.

The local government also looked for the project's original blueprints, which the NHA could not immediately produce.

This further delayed the construction, Siap said.

It was only in the latter part of 2002 when city hall granted the NHA the necessary occupancy papers.

No electricity

Yet, even if six of the ten buildings were already ready for occupancy, residents could not move in because there was no electricity.

Juancho Corpuz, the National Housing Authority's principal engineer of the project, said the Supreme Court's refund order has caught up with Meralco's work on the project.

But Meralco denied any hand in the delay. Rather,it blamed the NHA for the fiasco.

Engr. Jun Bismonte, in charge of power applications of Meralco-Cainta, Rizal, said the NHA asked Meralco to energize the compound in October 2001.

He said his firm complied, even though it violated Meralco's requirement that at least 70 percent of the units should be occupied first before the buildings are energized.

"We would be in the losing end if we put up our facilities where there are no people yet, he said.

"The government does not pay Meralco for the installation of electric posts and other facilities for housing projects such as this."

The facilities were installed in February 2002 and, since then, Meralco had been waiting for occupants so it could connect individual electric meters.

No one came, the official said.

Last June, Meralco was asked to fasttrack "servicing" the units, Bismonte said.

Again, Meralco complied and insisted that at least 70 percent of the units be occupied in two to three months.

Missing the target

At the rate people are moving into the housing project, this target is unlikely to be achieved.

When pressed about this, the NHA could not provide figures.

NHA area estate supervisor Marta Pornela said they only started handing out notices for people to move in last June.

Many of those who got units have not yet paid the required down and advance payments worth two months, Pornela said.

Occupants are supposed to pay P750 to P1,600 each month, on top of a maintenance fee of P750.

The units also need further work.

Traffic officer SP03 Alexander Galang, one of more than 60 lawmen who received a unit, said he still needs to spend around P15,000 before he could move into his new home.

"As soon as I get the money, I will have it fixed so I can move in," he said. Galang rents an apartment.

Another officer, P02 Joselito Jala, said he had long waited for his unit to be finished. He received a notice from the NHA only last August, which told him to pay the fees in a month's time.

"It's about time," said Jala, who lives with his family in his in-laws' house. "I've been waiting for it for almost three years now."

Ornelio Etona, a jeepney driver, and his family moved into the project last Aug. 21.

"It's wonderful when you finally get your own home," he said. "I never thought we could get one."

But SP01 Victor Barrios, who is assigned with the Pasig Traffic Group, is still waiting for the lights to go on in his unit.

NBI collars 2 BIR execs for extortion

By Leila Salaverria

NATIONAL Bureau of Investigation agents on Wednesday arrested two officials of the Bureau of Internal Revenue in an entrapment operation in Quezon City.

The NBI acted on the complaint of actor Romeo Rivera against Atty. Ramon Wilfredo Pagarigan, chief of the collection enforcement division of the BIR, and Augusto Barreto, a former Revenue Officer. A third cohort, identified only as Sandino, remains at large.

Pagarigan reportedly collapsed after he discovered that he had walked into a trap.

He has been taken to the St. Luke's Medical Center for treatment, according to the NBI.

Reports from the Criminal Intelligence Division of the NBI showed that Apolonio Rivera Jr., an actor more popularly known as Romeo Rivera and president and general manager of Omnibus Resources Corporation, had lodged a complaint against the three for initially demanding P250,000 from him to settle his company's tax liabilities.

Rivera decided to go to the NBI for help.

Rivera then asked the suspects if he could lower the amount to P150,000. The government officials agreed.

The three BIR agents and Rivera then agreed to meet at the Packos Grill and Bar on Sgt. Esguerra Street, Timog, Quezon City at 11 p.m. on Wednesday.

That night, Barreto and Pagarigan accepted envelopes of marked money from Rivera. After the exchange, NBI agents swooped down and arrested the two government men.

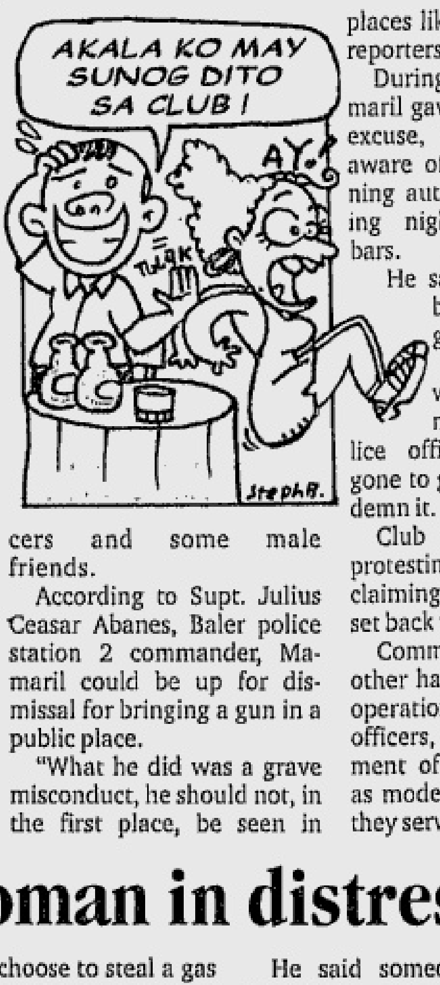
Pagarigan initially resisted arrest before he collapsed.

NBI agents said Pagarigan had recently undergone a heart operation and this may have led to his collapse.

The two were then taken to the NBI office in Manila, where they tested positive for flourescent powder on their hands.

Fun-loving fireman fails nightlife check

By Tina Santos


AKALA KO MAY SUNOG DITO SA CLUB !
AY.
TSK
StephB.

FIREMAN Allan Angelo Mamaril is in deep trouble after he was caught with a gun while having fun inside a nightclub in Quezon City on Wednesday night, a few days after President Macapagal-Arroyo issued a directive ordering law enforcers to stop going to nightspots.

F01 Mamaril, detailed with the Bureau of Fire Protection, was caught during a police operation inside the Heartbeat Mega KTV on Quezon Avenue Wednesday night.

The Quezon City police have been making the rounds of controversial nightspots, particularly those on Quezon Avenue.

Police conducted a spot check at Heartbeat and seized a gun from Mamaril, who was caught in the company of guest relations officers and some male friends.

According to Supt. Julius Ceasar Abanes, Baler police station 2 commander, Mamaril could be up for dismissal for bringing a gun in a public place.

"What he did was a grave misconduct, he should not, in the first place, be seen in places like this," Abanes told reporters.

During interrogation, Mamaril gave policemen a lame excuse, saying he was not aware of the directive banning authorities from entering nightclubs and girlie bars.

He said he had just got back to work after going on sick leave.

While many have welcomed the nightlife check on police officials, others have gone to great lengths to condemn it.

Club owners have been protesting the spot checks claiming it would financially set back their businesses.

Community leaders, on the other hand, have lauded the operations, saying that police officers, as well as all government officials, should serve as models of the community they serve.

METROBRIEFS

Rapists rounded up

POLICE yesterday arrested three of five men accused of raping a 16-year-old girl in Caloocan City. The suspects were identified as Jay-R Sebastian, 19, Marlon Pegarodo, 19, and Rommel Puevo, 18, all of Bagong Silang, Caloocan City. Senior Insp. Nestor Dioso, Caloocan Police Substation 3 commander, said the victim was allegedly persuaded by one of the suspects to go with him and his friends to a party at around 8 p.m. Wednesday. But the five suspects instead took the girl to an isolated area in the neighborhood where they took turns abusing her. *Tina Santos*

Man bleeds to death

A YOUNG man yesterday was found dead in front of a Manila hospital where he was earlier brought in for treatment. SP02 Virgo Villareal said Tata Gamboa, 20, of Chicago Street, Cubao, Quezon City, had left the Gat Andres Bonifacio Hospital after being bathed and cleaned by attendants. Villareal said Gamboa was earlier found bleeding by P03 Roberto Zapata, who thought the young man had been stabbed. But Gamboa had actually been bleeding from the rectum when he left the hospital, Villareal said He was found dead hours later on C.M. Recto Street in front of the hospital's outpatient department. *Leila Salaverria*

Fatal fall

CONSTRUCTION worker Arnold Lumos fell to his death from the 10th floor of a building in Manila yesterday. P02 Resurreccion Abenwar of Western Police District Station 11, said Lumos, who worked for RA Builders and Development, fell from the building he was working on along Alonzo Street, Binondo, at 11:50 a.m. Lumos, 32, and a native of Zambales, did not make it to the Metropolitan Hospital alive, police said. *Leila Salaverria*

Outstanding Mapuan

ENGINEER Edison Ang, 2003 National Association of Mapua Alumni awardee, is calling on all members of the Mapua Institute of Technology Batch 1979, to support their Silver Jubilee celebration at the Manila Hotel in July 2004. Ang, a mechanical graduate of MIT, is making the call this early so that his co-graduates will have ample time to register and participate in the grand affair. All 1979 graduates of MIT may call the chair of the Jubilee Grand Homecoming committee, Deng Ngo-Orial, at 845-3386 and 750-4168 for registration and details.

Marikina tricycle drivers rescue woman in distress

THE POLICE have found an ally in tricycle drivers who bravely chased and cornered a man suspected of robbing a young lady in Marikina City yesterday.

The suspect was identified as Romer Belarmino, 25, of Barangay Parang.

According to the police, Joy Saura, of Barangay Marikina Heighs, was waiting for a ride on Balagtas Street in Barangay Parang when Belarmino poked a screwdriver at her waist.

He then forcibly took her mobile phone.

Hoping she could still recover her phone, Saura sought assistance from a group of tricycle drivers.

The drivers immediately scoured the area where Belarmino could have fled.

Fortunately, a police mobile unit passed by just as the tricycle drivers saw and cornered the suspect.

"This incident showed that if residents would help, criminals have no place to run," said Senior Supt. Felipe Rojas, Jr., Marikina police chief.

Records showed that Belarmino was arrested two years ago for brandishing a homemade gun.

Meanwhile, the police are puzzled why a man would choose to steal a gas tank which was heavy and would not fetch much in the black market.

As a result, the clanging of the tank woke up Danilo Marcilla, the owner of tank, the Marikina police said.

The police said the tank most probably slowed down the escape of the suspect, Rey Vergara.

Responding barangay watchmen caught him just as he was loading the gas tank to a passenger jeep.

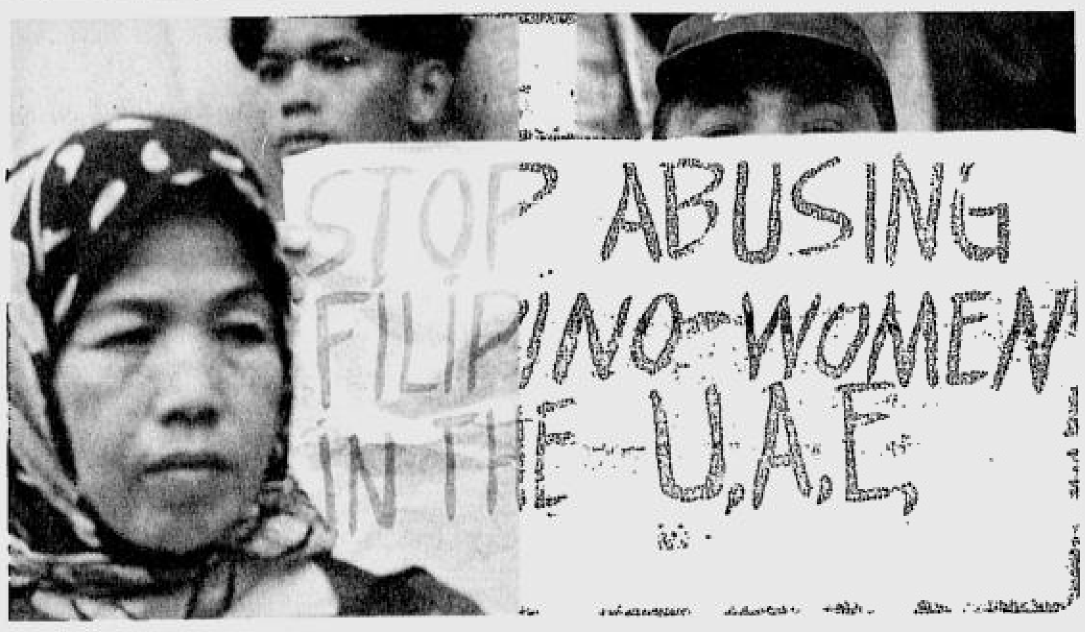
But Vergara has a different version of the story.

He said someone—he would not identify who—had asked him to get the tank, which he said was already placed outside the gate of Marcilla's home on Bonifacio Avenue in Barangay De la Pena, Marikina City. .

"*Napag-utusan lang ako* (I was just following orders)," he said, adding he had no idea he was already committing a crime.

The police would not buy Vergara's story.

"Why would anyone get a tank at 4 a.m.?" asked Insp. Antonio Cruz. *Luige del Puerto*



FOR GRACE
Members of Migrante, a cause-oriented group, rally outside the United Arab Emirates Embassy in Makati City to seek justice for a female Filipino worker who was reportedly raped then jailed in Sharja. ERIK ARAZAS

Makati embarks on cultural revival

By Margaux Ortiz

MAKATI is embarking on a cultural revival and its onset will be signaled by the ringing of bells in all Catholic churches in the city.

Mayor Jejomar Binay said he already wrote Manila Auxiliary Bishop Socrates Villegas and requested that the churches in Makati City ring their bells at 6 a.m., 12 noon and 6 p.m. as done in the past.

Binay said bringing back the ringing of church bells would be a first step in reviving the city residents' sense of tradition and nationalism.

Binay said the bishop promptly granted the request.

The mayor added that Villegas even thanked him for his suggestion and promised that he would inform all the priests in the city for the immediate restoration of the custom.

The sound of church bells ringing have already completely faded from the ears of the younger generation, Binay lamented.

"This is why the city government of Makati has been encouraging the rekindling of Filipino customs and traditions that are rooted not only in the Filipino culture but in religion as well," Binay said in a statement.

Binay said the ringing of church bells at the appointed time was the signal for saying important prayers like the Angelus.

He added that it also indicated the time for all the young boys and girls to be sent home and stay indoors.

"I believe that if we can renew such traditions, we will not only promote unity and togetherness within the family but encourage a Catholic practice and renew a local tradition," Binay said.

BINAY

Apart from restoring traditions that come with the ringing of church bells, Makati will be playing kundiman, rondalla tunes and contemporary Original Filipino Music at the City Hall.

Binay's spokesperson Lito Anzures said they were hoping to make the city a center of Filipino culture.

Lantin out as LTFRB chairman

By Gil Cabacungan

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo has replaced Land Transportation Franchising and Regulatory Board (LTFRB) chair Dante Lantin with one of her protegés at the Presidential Management Staff (PMS).

Presidential spokesperson Ignacio Bunye said the President already signed the appointment papers of Assistant Secretary Maria Elena Bautista as the new head of the LTFRB.

Bunye said Malacañang deferred the announcement until it had notified Bautista's replacement at the PMS.

Bautista was the right-hand person of former PMS chief Vicky Garchitorena. "She's very qualified and she enjoys the trust and confidence of the President," Bunye said.

Big trouble over names on bottles

By Alcuin Valle Papa

THREE police officials will be asked to explain why their names were printed on bottles of liquor found in a classy Quezon City bar.

Senior Supt. Leopoldo Bataoil, chief of the Philippine National Police Public Information Office, identified the three as Supt. Ferdinand Vero and Supt. Gilbert Sosa, both assigned to the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group, and Supt. Luisito Ruiz, who is assigned in Region 4.

Bataoil said yesterday an investigation would be conducted by the Directorate for Investigation and Detective Management (DIDM) to determine if the three had committed any violation. He assured that due process would be observed.

The PNP's records did not yield any results for personnel named Capt. Taniel and Capt. Popoy.

These names were also discovered on bottles found at the Mystique bar on Quezon Avenue in Quezon City.

Last Monday night, PNP chief Director Gen. Hermogenes Ebdane led a surprise inspection on Mystique and its neighbor, Classmates. Ebdane did not find any policemen among the patrons, but he discovered the liquor bottles with the names of the officers.

"Whoever owned these bottles are presumably regular patrons of the nightclub. As such, they may have violated existing regulations prohibiting PNP personnel from going to such places," Ebdane said yesterday.

Under a memorandum, PNP personnel are banned from nightclubs, bars, casinos and cockpits.

Ebdane has also ordered the DIDM to assist the Central Police District in the ongoing investigation into the identity of the owners of the liquor bottles.

Angry commuter flashes MRT teller

By Tina Santos

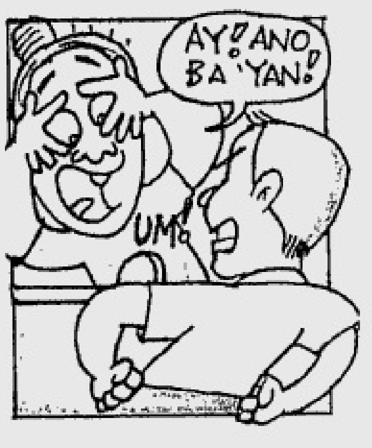
AN IRATE man showed a Metro Rail Transit (MRT) teller how angry he was and that landed him in jail.

Felipe Bintuan, 44, of Manga Street, San Francisco del Monte, QC, was arrested for unzipping his pants and wagging his sex organ before Milagros Manding, MRT teller at the North Avenue Station in Quezon City.

According to Bintuan, he had just stood in a long line of people waiting to buy tickets at around 8 a.m. when Manding refused to accept his P20 bill when it was his turn at the counter.

It turned out that Bintuan had stood in the line that led to the "Exact Fare Only" booth.

His temper flared up after the teller allegedly insisted on not taking his money.



But what really infuriated him, according to Bintuan, was when Manding allegedly had asked him to take out all the coins in his pocket until he raised the exact fare for the ticket.

He complied but at the moment he got his ticket, Bintuan reportedly unzipped his pants, pulled out his private part and angrily flashed it at the teller.

Bintuan then tried to run toward the train but was collared by a security guard.

He was hauled off to the Baler Station of the Central Police District where he was charged with unjust vexation and public scandal.

CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION
Republic of the Philippines

The Civil Service Commission and the 1.4 million state workers salute this year's

Outstanding Public Officials and Employees

Three prestigious awards will be conferred to the bureaucracy's cream of the crop on the occasion of the Philippine Civil Service's 103rd Anniversary today. The Lingkod and Dangal ng Bayan Awards will be given by President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo in Malacañang at one o'clock this after noon while the Pagasa Awarding ceremonies will highlight the Parangal... Pasasalamat concert tribute at 3 p.m. in Teatro Aguinaldo, Quezon City.

DANGAL NG BAYAN AWARDEES

CHERYLL J. APALISOC
State Auditor II, Commission on Audit
For her diligence and integrity, bravely exposing and unraveling the malpractice of electric cooperatives in overcharging the Purchased Power Adjustment or PPA at the expense of low-income consumers despite threat to life and temptations offered by those whose nefarious acts she has uncovered.

ABDURASAD Z. DAUNG
Utility Worker, Philippine Coconut Authority
Zamboanga City
For his unswerving dedication and commitment, performing tasks way beyond his regular functions and with no additional compensation, increasing people's awareness on the projects and programs of the Philippine Coconut Authority.

SUSAN G. DIGNADICE
Midwife III, Municipal Gov't of Ajuy, Iloilo
For her commitment to service, initiating projects that improved not only the health but also the economic life of the people, raising their self-worth through participation in community endeavors. Undeterred by distance, she provides basic health services to island barangays of the municipality, conducting seminars sitio by sitio on family planning and health care.

HERMINIA A. IBARRA
Utility Worker, Antipolo City
For her sincerity and commitment to service, extending a helping hand even if personal comfort is sacrificed. Her lowly rank did not prevent her from contributing to the betterment of people who seek the help of the city government, unselfishly sharing her time and skills.

BERNARDO DG. NAVARRETE
Driver III, Philippine Postal Corp., Manila
For his ingenuity and resourcefulness, converting an otherwise moribund piece of equipment into a tool that has immensely improved mailing service and that has generated P50,000 savings for the agency.

MILA T. SEGOVIA
Social Welfare Officer IV, Dept. of Social Welfare and Development, Davao City
For her commitment to public service, initiating programs, mobilizing resources, introducing projects that have made a difference in the lives specifically of persons with disabilities. Her creativity and sincere desire to serve the marginalized sector has spurred her to implement programs that place premium on societal acceptance of persons with disabilities, empowering them to become productive members of the community

LINGKOD NG BAYAN AWARDEES

HELEN S. BAGASAO
City Social Welfare & Development Officer
Cabanatuan City
For her zealous and untiring efforts in promoting programs that directly benefit the underprivileged sectors of society, specifically the establishment of the Haven of Joy and Roving Center for Streetchildren, the Learning Center for Children with Disabilities, the Badjao Resettlement and Education Program, and the Women Productivity and Livelihood Center. Cabanatuan City stands witness to her relentless pursuit of projects that would alleviate the marginalized sectors.

FORTUNATO B. BULAO
Assistant Provincial Manager, National Food Authority, Lingayen, Pangasinan
For his ingenuity and resourcefulness, designing a device that has immensely improved maintenance and management of the National Food Authority's warehouses nationwide. His invention, the insect trap, has significantly reduced grain storage losses and prevented contamination of stored grains in warehouses from chemical residues caused by use of pesticides. With the device, the agency was able to save P1.9 million per year as the use of hazardous chemicals and the concomitant exposure of personnel to harmful chemicals were reduced.

CLEOFAS R. CERVANCIA
Professor III, Institute of Biological Sciences
University of the Philippines Los Baños
For her priceless advancements in the study of bees and relentless efforts in promoting beekeeping as a viable enterprise in the country. Her researches provide the most comprehensive data on the biodiversity of bees in Asia. She is also a forerunner in pollination studies, proving that bees improve the quality and quantity of fruit yield. An innovator with an unquenchable thirst for advancements in her field, Cervancia developed technologies on bee management such as mite control which resulted in considerable growth in bee colonies.

LEONCIO P. DERIADA
Professor IV, University of the Philippines in the Visayas, Miag-ao, Iloilo
For his outstanding performance as a university professor, not only in promoting academic excellence but also in honing the creative potentials of his students in writing. He inspired the Kinaray-as and Aklanons to write literature in their otherwise marginalized languages, in effect reviving the dialects as visible branches of national literature. An advocate of a multifaceted Filipino language that truly represents the diverse people of the entire archipelago, he enriched Philippine literature by encouraging Visayan-laced writings.

The *Lingkod Bayan* and *Dangal ng Bayan* awardees will each receive P100,000 cash and automatic promotion to the next higher position in their respective agencies. If no position is readily available, the awardees will instead be given a salary increase equivalent to the next higher position. The *Lingkod Bayan* awardees will also receive a gold gilded medallion and a plaque while the *Dangal ng Bayan* awardees will be given a trophy designed by National Artist for Sculpture Napoleon Abueva. The *Pagasa* awardees will receive P50,000 cash, a gold gilded medallion, and a plaque.

Awardees will get additional benefits: full scholarship from the UP System, Philippine Normal University, and Technological University of the Philippines; P100,000 personal accident insurance coverage given by The Insular Life Assurance Co. Ltd.; and Suki Card from Mercury Drug. The Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corporation also extended financial assistance.

PAUL A. EVANGELISTA
Chief of Sanitarium, Culion Sanitarium & General Hospital, Culion, Palawan
For his outstanding contribution in transforming the once destitute Culion Island into a bustling municipality, spelling hope for patients afflicted with leprosy. His unmatched devotion in helping those afflicted with Hansen's disease is manifested by the various programs he initiated, programs that lessen the stigma of leprosy patients and that make them productive members of the community.

WILBERTO RICO NEIL A. KWAN TIU
Sr. Inspector/City Fire Marshal
Bureau of Fire Protection
For his constant display of valor and diligence, performing his duties as a fire officer and public servant with utmost sincerity. Equipped with a great passion to help those in distress, Kwan Tiu constantly risks his life to bring thousands of families to safety. He earned the respect of his colleagues and his constituents through his steadfast conviction to improve the BFP-Panabo City despite its meager resources.

FLORDELIZA R. MAYARI
Assistant Schools Division Superintendent
Department of Education, Div. of Marikina City
For her unparalleled commitment and dedication in promoting science education, spurring creativity and tapping the potentials of students and educators as well. Her advocacy work gave birth to several notable initiatives which not only enriched the teaching and learning of science in the country but prominently placed the Philippines in the international map of research and development.

FEDERICO L. OCAMPO
Community Environment and Natural Resources Officer, Department of Environment and Natural Resources, Gumaca, Quezon
For his commitment and trailblazing leadership, successfully addressing in broad strokes problems in reforestation, forest protection and poverty alleviation. He vigorously pushed for the mass planting of Malapapaya trees within coconut plantations and, in a brief period, was able to develop the local and international market for the said tree specie.

ESTER B. OGENA
Director, Science Education Institute
Department of Science and Technology
Taguig, Metro Manila
For her remarkable commitment to advance science and mathematics learning in hard-to-reach areas. To narrow down the digital divide in the urban and rural areas of the country and to empower students and teachers, she conceptualized a mobile IT classroom equipped with laptop computers, audio-visual equipment and interactive instructional materials. She also implemented Rescue Initiatives in Science Education to address the special needs of science and mathematics teachers whose students mostly come from ethnic groups.

PAGASA AWARDEES

Individual Category

ANTONIA P. DAGALA, MPA
Administrative Officer IV
Provincial Government of Davao del Norte
For her unabated enthusiasm in promoting gender and development in Davao del Norte. She conceptualized a ten-year gender-responsive development plan with the ultimate goal of women empowerment at the grassroots level. Dagala established the Davao del Norte Women's Development Crisis Center which provides a wide range of services for the protection and rehabilitation of women. The awardee also initiated reforms to improve administrative endeavors in the Provincial Government of Davao del Norte. She lends her enthusiasm at work and nose for innovations as a focal person of various activities of the Province.

FELISA U. ETEMADI
Professor, Univ. of the Phils. – Cebu College
For her enthusiastic efforts geared toward the holistic mentoring of her students. She not only teaches the finer points of governance; she also incites critical thinking, social responsibility, values education, and an elevated emotional quotient in her students. Her expertise makes her a distinguished think-tank commissioned by local and international organizations to head studies on society and governance. Always seeking ways to improve the plight of the younger generation, she brought children's concerns to the city government's attention which prompted the city council to pass child-friendly ordinances.

JUAN A. NAGTALON
President, Misamis Oriental State College of Agriculture and Technology
For his enabling leadership which gave Misamis Oriental State College of Agriculture and Technology (MOSCAT) a name in agricultural training. Through solicitations from government offices and private benefactors, he was able to intensify the democratization of access to education by offering scholarship grants to deserving students. Nagtalon likewise established a Farmer's Information Technology Services and implemented agroforestry support programs for community empowerment towards self-reliance. Always finding ways to improve the state of farming in and out of the school perimeter, he hastened the rehabilitation of Minantang and Mincarlis Watershed Program in Claveria, Misamis Oriental.

MEDY F. TABANGAY
Agricultural Technologist, Office of the Provincial Agriculture, Prov'l. Gov't of Palawan
For her exceptional patience, dedication and commitment to organize farmers into cohesive support groups. Tabangay braved the farmers' resistance and successfully banded 24 farm-based organizations in San Vicente, Palawan. Today, farmers in the community actively participate in calamity task-force efforts, coastal resources management, and livestock dispersal activities. Tabangay also steadfastly extends technical assistance to farmers enriching their knowledge with innovations in farming, soil management, immunization and treatment of livestock.

Group Category

PHILIPPINE GENERAL HOSPITAL – Child Protection Unit (PGH-CPU)
Manila (Team Members - 9)
For installing an effective fortress of comfort for abused children. PGH-CPU delivers a comprehensive and multidisciplinary care for maligned children all day, every day. Since its doors opened in 1997, PGH-CPU has served over four thousand children including their families. As the only training center for child protection in Asia, PGH-CPU remains the national training center for Department of Health physicians. The team likewise endeavored to elevate consciousness on the needs of abused children by uniting different agencies and training doctors with up-to-date data on child abuse evaluation and management.

NATURAL PRODUCTS DIVISION - OPERATIONS GROUP
Center for International Trade Expositions and Missions (CITEM), Department of Trade and Industry, (Team Members - 4)
For trailblazing researches and prioritizing the development of herbal and organic products. The group set the agenda for organic certification in the country which was seen to boost market acceptance for organic produce. Working with a limited budget, this team of dedicated people sourced out international funding to invite foreign experts in its training programs, the output of which aided the group in finalizing the Philippine Basic Standards on Organic Agriculture and Processing.

NATIONAL MARITIME POLYTECHNIC
Department of Labor and Employment
(Team Members -147)
For its ingenious endeavor to earn and save millions of pesos thus augmenting the institutions' meager budget. Through rigorous systems improvement and aggressive resource generation, the team was able to post over 100% of increase in its income. The group accomplished this by leasing unproductive and underutilized areas and equipment, converting swamps into rice fields and recycling spare parts from unserviceable machinery. With the group's pulsating concern for the agency, it vigorously stepped up cost-cutting activities thus generating more revenue for project expansion.

TEAM FOR THE AUDIT OF MERALCO
Commission on Audit (COA)
(Team Members - 8)
For the group's relentless pursuit of precision in the audit of MERALCO. Despite pressures, the team exercised diligence, devotion to work and camaraderie to complete the audit. Its feat, borne out of diligent inspection of MERALCO accounting books, has been greatly lauded by the public as it impelled COA to recommend the exclusion of income tax as costs recoverable from consumers. The team consistently stood firm with its decision, in effect, advancing the welfare of Filipino consumers.

SUERTRES 4 4 3

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METRO

E-mail: pr_metro@inquirer.com.ph

Editor **Abelardo S. Ulanday**

SUICIDE ANGLE PROBED

Solon's wife found dead at home

By Luige del Puerto

DID the wife of the lone representative of Antipolo City take out a gun and shoot herself in the head yesterday?

The police can't say so as of press time yesterday.

But city police chief Supt. Primitivo Tabujara said that what was clear was that at 10:30 a.m., Michelle Sumulong, 29, wife of Rep. Vic Sumulong, was found with a gunshot wound in the head.

A .9mm caliber pistol was used, he said.

"It is possible she played with the gun and it went off. But the scene of the crime operatives team has yet to determine what really happened," Tabujara stressed.

Initial investigation revealed that two female housemaids heard a thud from the couple's bedroom on the second floor of their home at the Sumulong Compound in Barangay San Roque in the city.

The police chief said a .9mm handgun does not make much of a noise when fired, especially in enclosed areas like a bedroom.

Alarmed, the two maids rushed upstairs and found Michelle slumped on the floor, drenched in blood, Tabujara said.

Tabujara said the maids immediately called the congressman, who was taking a bath on the first floor.

Sumulong brought her wife to the Unciano Hospital, but she was declared dead upon arrival.

Sumulong would be asked to undergo a paraffin test. So would other members of the Sumulong household, the police said.

Based on conversations with members of the household, Tabujara said he found out that Mrs. Sumulong had been suffering from a form of depression in past few weeks.

She was brought to the RSU Hospital in Sta. Mesa.

"The doctors advised her to stay in the hospital, but she came home," Tabujara said.

3 Kuratong men killed in shootout

By Alcuin Valle Papa and Luige del Puerto

"THEY fired first."

Thus said Supt. Leo Santiago, director of Philippine National Police in Rizal, commenting on the killing of three alleged members of the Kuratong Baleleng Gang in Cainta before dawn yesterday.

Those slain were identified by the police as Jose Aldrin Cabuntag, Rey Verano and a certain Ariel.

Two other suspects reportedly managed to flee at the height of the firefight that occurred at Apras Creekside, Anak Pawis, Barangay San Juan, which sits on Cainta's boundary with Taytay.

According to Santiago, his men were about to serve a search warrant issued by Antipolo Judge Francisco Querubin at around 4:30 a.m., when the suspects opened fire at them.

"The alley that we were negotiating was narrow and downhill. When we heard the burst of gunfire, I ordered a full assault," Santiago said.

When the smoke cleared, the three alleged gang men lay dead. Found at the scene were a "baby Armalite," a .45-caliber pistol and a .38-caliber revolver.

Santiago said one of his men almost drowned while going after two other suspects who fled by jumping into a creek and swimming away.

The police said Verano and Cabuntag had been identified by witnesses as those who killed four people, including two lawmen and a municipal clerk, on Friday in Barangay Dolores, Taytay, Rizal.

The two allegedly entered the Mikol Eatery located along the Manila East Road, pulled out M-16 assault rifles and started shooting.

Santiago said the fatalities belonged to the same group that robbed the Bahay Kawayan Eatery on Ortigas Avenue, also in Cainta, two weeks ago.

No permit, no rally policy on Bush visit

By Leila B. Salaverria

BEFORE you go ahead and rally against United States President George Bush, make sure you have your permits.

This was the reminder of Western Police District Director Chief Supt. Pedro Bulaong to militant groups who have announced plans to conduct a series of protest against Bush.

"They should first get a permit from city hall," Bulaong said over radio station dzBB yesterday. "We maintain a no permit, no rally policy."

Militant groups earlier said they plan to hold long rallies and flag-burning activities to "welcome" Bush to the country and to show their opposition to his policies that they deem harmful to the country.

Bulaong also reiterated yesterday that all security measures are being set up in Manila in time for Bush's visit. He said intelligence-gathering activities have been stepped up while detectives have been deployed.

These measures are meant to ensure that people who may be planning to harm the American president would be neutralized, Bulaong explained.

Earlier, WPD operatives have come under fire from militant groups who decried the violent dispersals of their rallies in Manila. The militant groups blamed the police for starting the violence.

But Bulaong had claimed that aside from having no permits, the dispersed militant groups allegedly blocked roads causing traffic jams.

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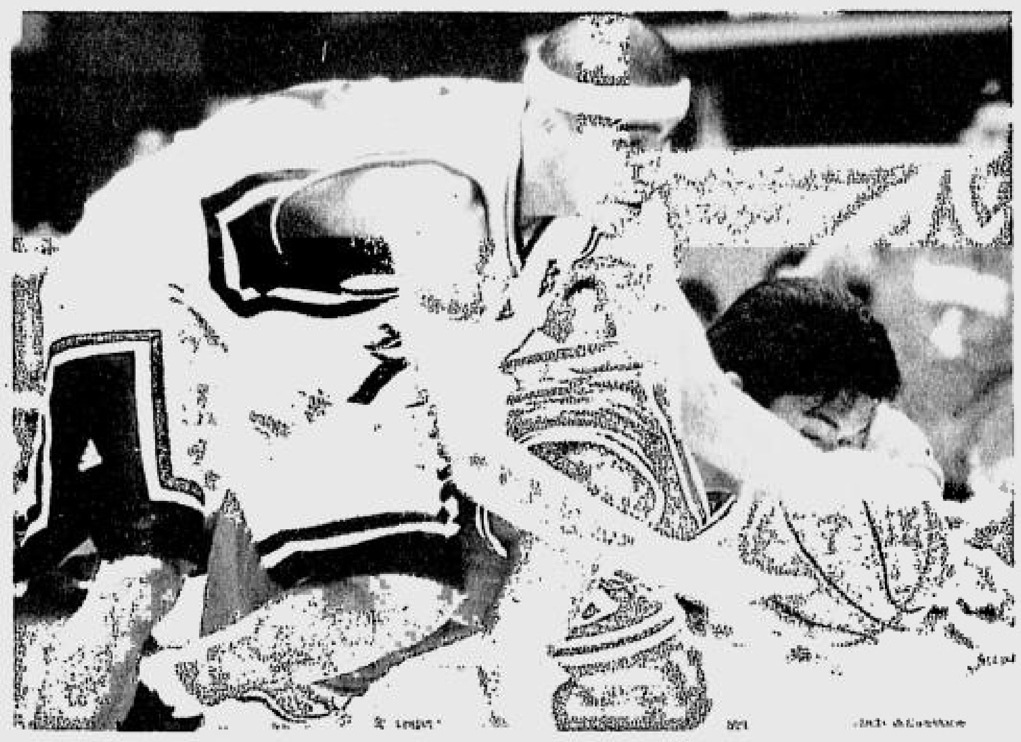
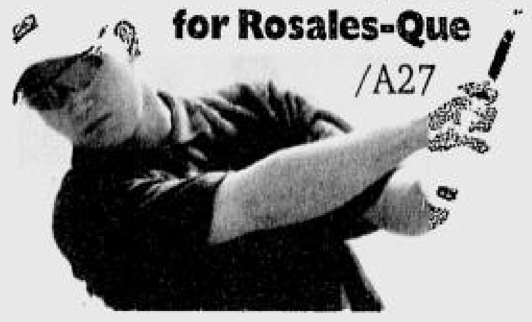


MAC Cardona of La Salle beats James Yap of UE to the loose ball. AUGUST DE LA CRUZ

WHAT'S INSIDE

■ Clutario cops bronze /A26



■ Promising start for Rosales-Que /A27

SPORTS TV

Compiled by L. Manguiat

BASKETBALL: NBA Summer League-Nets vs Knicks; 11 a.m. (r-8 p.m.); Solar Sports—New Jersey and New York renew their rivalry during the summer.

BASEBALL: MLB-White Sox vs Twins; 8 a.m. (r-3:30 p.m. and 9:30 p.m.); ESPN—Chicago battles Minnesota in this AL match-up.

Schedules subject to change without prior notice.

Cabatu lifts La Salle; UE files protest

GAMES SUNDAY *(Araneta Coliseum)*
2 p.m.—Ateneo vs La Salle (Women)
4 p.m.—Ateneo vs FEU (Srs)

By Marc Anthony Reyes

JUNJUN Cabatu hit a three-pointer from way out as the final buzzer sounded and La Salle nipped University of the East, 65-64, last night to deny the Warriors the twice-to-beat privilege in the UAAP men's basketball tournament at the Araneta Coliseum.

But the Warriors immediately placed the game under protest, contending that the ball was still in Cabatu's hands when time expired.

Officials refused to comment although TV replays showed that there was no more time when Cabatu unleashed his shot.

The victory didn't improve La Salle's fourth-place spot in the Final Four with eight wins and six losses after the elimination. But it pulled down the Warriors to the No. 3 position (10-4), leaving Ateneo and Far Eastern (both with 11-3 cards) to dispute the No. 1 spot on Sunday at the Big Dome.

The Ateneo-FEU winner will then face La Salle, while the loser takes on UE armed with twice-to-beat advantages in the Final Four.

The Warriors took a 62-59 lead with two minutes left when James Yap fired a jumper,

CABATU/ A26

Aric a winner until the end

By Marc Anthony Reyes

SANTO Tomas bade farewell to probably the greatest coach it ever had—Aric del Rosario—with a hard-earned 92-89 victory in extra time over the University of the East yesterday in the UAAP men's basketball at the Araneta Coliseum.

DEL ROSARIO

The no-bearing game ended Del Rosario's long and storied coaching career at UST which saw the Tigers score a historic 14-game sweep in 1993 that touched off a four-year title romp by the España-based dribblers.

The 60-year-old Del Rosario, also the coach of this year's national team, shed tears as his players hugged him after the game.

"I think I could no longer give what the school is asking for," said Del Rosario, who started calling the shots for the Tigers in 1989 after coaching the UST Gold Nuggets from 1984 to 1987.

He guided UST to the Final Four last year but had the misfortune of meeting then powerhouse La Salle, which kicked the Tigers out of contention.

This year, armed only with a lineup devoid of a reliable slotman and a true-blue point guard, the Tigers wound up sixth.

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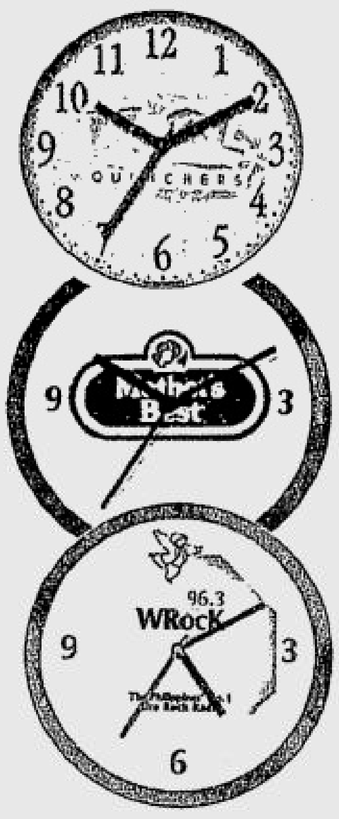
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CLUTARIO (middle), with Liza del Rosario (left) and Cecilia Yap, celebrating their victory in the trios. ANN

Clutario cops bronze in all events

FILIPINA Liza Clutario finished third in the women's all-events Wednesday night, clinching her second medal in the 15th World Tenpin Bowling Championships at the Pyramid Mega Lanes in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

Clutario, who helped the Philippines post a come-from-behind, record-setting victory in the women's trios Tuesday, wound up behind Zara Glover of England, who scored a 24-game record of 5286, and Diandra Hyman (5219) of the United States.

Posting her best series of 1,262 in the team event, Clutario towed teammates Liza del Rosario and Cecilia Yap to victory in the women's trios that ended the Philippines' 20-year title drought. It was also Asia's first-ever gold in the championships

The Filipinas combined for 3,797 pins, erasing the previous mark of 3,782 set by the South Koreans in Abu Dhabi in 1999.

It was an amazing turnaround for the Filipinas, who languished at 17th position (1,735) after the first block of three games (on Monday) before hitting full throttle in the second block (2,062) to give the Philippines its first gold after Bong Coo topped the All-Events in the 1983 World Championships in Caracas, Venezuela in 1983.

"This is unbelievable. We knew we had a chance for a medal if we stayed focused. And that's what we did. This is certainly great," said Del Rosario, the Asian Games double gold medalist and reigning Malaysian Open champion, who shot a 1278 for a 213 average.

The 27-year-old Yap, the 2001 Malaysia Open titlist, turned in a 1296 for a 216 average while Clutario submitted a 1223 for a 204 average.

"We are glad to be the first Asian team to win a medal here. There will be a big celebration back home. All of us bowled really great today," added the 25-year-old Del Rosario. *Asia News Network*

FedEx tackles Shell; TNT faces P'foods

GAMES TODAY *(Cuneta Astrodome)*
5 p.m.—Shell vs FedEx
7:30 p.m.—Talk 'N Text vs Purefoods

THE FEDEX Express, who welcomed their new coach with an impressive victory, go up against the Shell Turbochargers today in the Samsung-PBA Reinforced Conference at the Cuneta Astrodome.

Now with a 2-2 record following their conquest of the Barangay Ginebra Kings Sunday, the Express try to give Boni Garcia a second victory when they collide with the skidding Turbochargers at 5 p.m.

Coaching will also be a crucial factor when the Talk 'N Text Phone Pals shoot for a fourth straight victory against the Purefoods Hotdogs in the 7:30 main game.

Thriving under the guidance of interim coach Virgil Villavicencio and American mentor Maz Trakh, the Phone Pals are the odds-on pick over the Hotdogs, who have lost three of their last four outings.

Ariel Vanguardia, slapped with a five-game suspension after a controversial Talk 'N Text-Coca-Cola game in the Invitationals, is expected to take over the coaching chores for the Phone Pals in their next game.

Garcia, who took over from Derrick Pumaren, said he isn't bent on altering what his predecessor has started.

"I will adopt coach Derrick's system and even improve on it in the coming games until such a time that there's a need to alter it," said Garcia, who brought along coach Jojo Villa as his deputy.

Pumaren's assistants, Jun Tiongco and Gie Abanilla and conditioning coach Dan Rose resigned when Derrick was sacked.

"You will still see the same run-and-gun FedEx team that you witnessed in the past but the rotation of the players will be faster this time," said Garcia.

Terrence Shannon has been blending perfectly with the Express, getting a lot of support from veterans Vergel Meneses, Jerry Codiñera, Wynne Arboleda, Yancy De Ocampo, Renren Ritualo, Roger Yap and rookie John Ferriols.

Meanwhile, the Turbochargers are groping for form following back-to-back losses from the Coca-Cola Tigers and the Sta. Lucia Realtors.

Coach Perry Ronquillo and his Turbochargers opened the conference with a 114-101 blowout against the Talk 'N Text Phone Pals but Shell has struggled since then.

Like Shell, Purefoods is not planning to ship out import Harold Arceneaux despite his so-so performance so far.

The Hotdogs broke a 12-game losing streak when they edged the San Miguel Beermen, 77-76, but lost their next game to the Alaska Aces the other day.

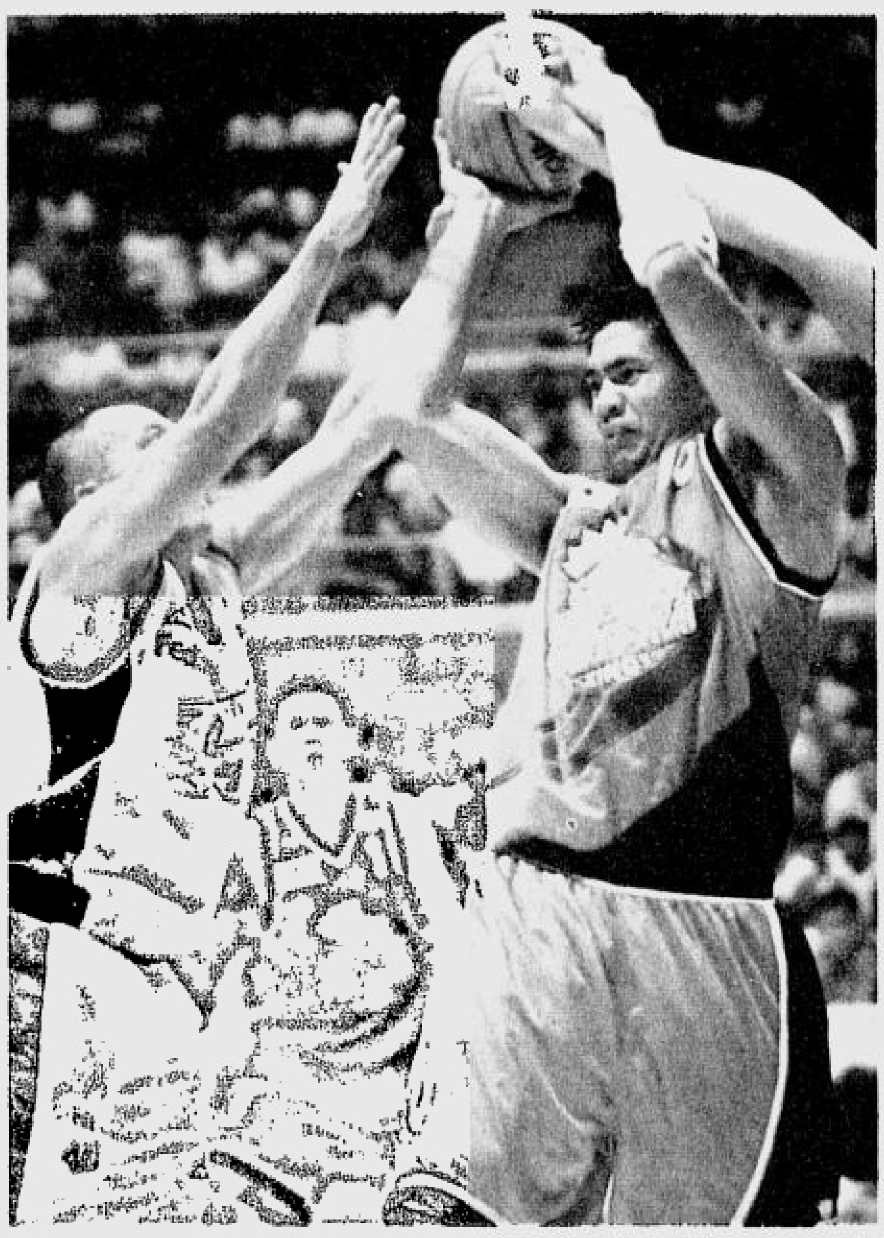
June Navarro

Harp, Limpot clash

A CLASH between two solid post-up players in Barangay Ginebra's Jun Limpot and Red Bull Barako's Davonn Harp is featured in the PBA King of the Court one-on-one competition at the Cuneta Astrodome tonight.

It's finesse versus brute force with Limpot expected to use his quickness and court savvy to offset Harp's raw power in their duel set in between a regular double-header.

The Limpot-Harp tiff is the third of 10 matchups in the elimination round.



WYNNE Arboleda of FedEx harasses Romel Adducul of Ginebra in their game Sunday. FedEx won, 103-92.
AUGUST DELA CRUZ

Cabatu lifts La Salle . . .

From page A25

but La Salle's Joseph Yeo hit a three-pointer to tie it with 1:27 to go.

On the next play, Paul Artadi dribbled through La Salle's defense then quickly turned around for a layup that gave UE what looked like a safe 64-62 margin with 4.3 seconds to go.

After a La Salle timeout, the 6-foot-5 son of former PBA player Sonny Cabatu found himself all alone on top of the key and didn't hesitate firing the shot that sent the Archers running all over the court in jubilation while the Warriors stood stunned.

'We designed a play based on UE's defensive formation in the previous play," said La Salle coach Franz Pumaren. "Good thing their defense collapsed on everybody, leaving Cabatu open."

Scores:

First Game (Srs)

UST 92—Villamin 16, Espiritu 14, Luanzon 13, Raterta 12, Hubalde 9, De Guzman 7, Evangelista 6, Espiritu Allan 6, Manansala 6, Vizcarra 3, Cortez 0, Del Rosario 0.

UP 89—Almeda 21, Reyes 16, Cruz 13, Bornancin 13, David 8, Ibañez 8, Cervantes 6, Tabique 3, Buyco 1, Manlapaz 0.

Quarters: 30-13, 50-39, 64-60, 82-all (regulation), 92-89

Second Game (Srs)

LA SALLE 65—Araña 24, Cabatu 15, Yeo 8, Cua 4, Cardona 4, Gaco 4, Casio 4, Gatchalian 2, Ramos 0, Benitez 0.

UE 64 —Yap 19, Estrada 13, Omiping 12, Artadi 10, Hubalde 3, Booker 3, Canaleta 3, Alminario 1, Tan 0, Butel 0, Masbang 0.

Quarters: 22-17, 35-34, 49-52, 65-64

Lhuillier five bests Qataris, bags title

M. LHUILLIER Kwarta Padala-Cebu leaned on the fiery performance of Geremy Robinson and a well-executed defensive game plan to stop Qatar-Ricor Mills, 68-65, Wednesday night and capture the 2003 Trust Classic National Open basketball crown at the New Cebu City Coliseum here.

Robinson fired 27 points to propel the Cebuanos to their second title in less than one month.

Coach Raul "Yayoy" Alcoseba's boys also captured the NBL national championship late last month before their hometown fans.

Earlier, Chinese Taipei-Plantation Bay rallied in the fourth quarter to roll back Burlington-NBL, 83-76, and bag third place.

Alcoseba credited his team's victory to "the fine execution of our defensive game plan."

"For two days, we practiced on defense. Our plan was to confuse them," he said. "We played zone and after two or three passes, we switched to man-to-man. We correctly predicted that they would not be able to cope with our transition play immediately."

Robinson sparked an 11-3 blast down the stretch that virtually sealed the Cebuanos' triumph in the tourney sponsored by Trust Classic, Waterfront Hotel, Cebu Visitors and Convention Bureau, Plantation Bay, Air21, Panasonic, Gatorade, Spring Cooking Oil, Accel, Sunkist, Healthy Options, Burlington, Hotel de Mercedes, Air Philippines, The Freeman, dzSR Sports Radio 918Khz, Nature's Spring Drinking Water, Ricor Mills, Baker's Fair and Molten Basketball.

Bobby Parks was adjudged the tournament's Most Valuable Player. He led the Mythical Team together with Robinson, Chinese Taipei's Tien Lei, Qatar-Ricor Mills' Mahmoud and Ali.

The taller Qataris, using their stint to prepare for the Asian Basketball Confederation championships in Harbin, China, late this month, had beaten the Cebuanos, 70-67, to top the eliminations.

Trailing 48-55, the Qataris went to Yaseen Ismail Mahmoud in a 9-2 run to even the count at 57-all, 3:48 remaining.

But the Cebuanos, cheered lustity by the crowd throughout, held their ground before Robinson fired a triple that doomed Qatar, 68-60, with 18 seconds to go.

Mahmoud paced Qatar with 25 points.

Scores:

CHINESE TAIPEI 83—Ho 20, Chen 15, Lin 14, Tien 7, Chiu 6, Cheh 6, Lee 6, Tseng 4, Hung 3, Wu 2, Yang 0, Wu CW 0, Yang YM 0, Wu CY 0.

BURLINGTON-NBL 76—menor 19, Manuel 10, Reyes 9, Bernardino 9, Macanig 7, Santos 7, Dais 5, Habelito 4, Sta. Maria 2, Robillos 2.

Quarters: 25-20, 44-45, 57-68, 83-76.

Second Game

M. LHUILLIER KWARTA PADALA-CEBU 68—Robinson 27, Enriquez 11, Smith 10, Parks 9, Brown 9, Laygo 2, Aying 0, Lumantas 0, Canoneo 0.

QATAR-RICOR MILLS 65—Mahmoud 25, Daoud 11, Bsher 10, Ali 7, Mohammed 5, Abdulla 4, Abdi 3, Al-Jabri 0.

Quarters: 16-21, 36-35, 51-46, 68-65.

Knights try to wrap up NC crown today

GAMES TODAY *(Rizal Coliseum)*
2 p.m.—San Beda vs Mapua (Jrs)
4 p.m.—SSC-R vs Letran (Srs)

LETRAN vows to forget the pleasant memory of its Game 1 victory when the Knights go for the title clincher against the defending champion San Sebastian Stags today in the 79th NCAA Finals at the Rizal Coliseum.

The Knights will treat Game 2 of the best-of-three basketball title series at 4 p.m. as a fresh battle notwithstanding the fact that they are now the heavy favorites following their 89-73 rout of the Stags Wednesday.

"We have to leave the memories of that win behind. We'll enter Game 2 thinking it has no connection with Game 1 and that if we fail, we're bound to lose the title," said Letran coach Louie Alas.

Focus will again be on Ronjay Enrile, who displayed a splendid all-around performance against the Stags.

San Sebastian coach Turo Valenzona should also watch out for Jonathan Aldave, Aaron Aban, Boyet Bautista and Billy Ray Anabo, who ably backed up Enrile as the Knights blew the Stags out of the court in Game 1.

"Knowing coach Turo, I expect him to come up with a surprise in Game 2 so I told the boys to expect the unexpected," said Alas.

Actually, the Stags forgot the hot-shooting Aldave as they concentrated on Letran guards Enrile and Bautista.

The Stags paid the price and worse, frontliners Leomar Najorda and the 6-foot-7 Pep Moore, failed to deliver.

"Letran is not an easy opponent, but we will definitely come up with some adjustments," said Valenzona, who is gunning for a third straight championship.

Valenzona added the Stags would concentrate on retooling their defense, which broke down in the face of the Knights' relentless offensive assault.

Chris Baluyot, Michael Gonzales, Ren Vicente, Nicole Uy, Najorda, and Moore are expected to spring some surprises to prevent the Stags' "three-peat" from going down the drain.

June Navarro

Fight promoter's fight

SPECTATOR

Al S. Mendoza

THE ALLEGATIONS of Bob Arum are far too serious that they need to be addressed immediately. Arum, who promoted the controversial De La Hoya-Mosley fight, has aired charges of misconduct in the scoring of the fight.

As we all know, Mosley won the fight by unanimous decision with the judges coming up with identical scores of 115-113.

"This controversy was not caused by my post-fight comments," De La Hoya told the Associated Press, "but rather by the fact that millions of people watching the fight from around the world were of a different opinion than the three judges in attendance."

Minutes after the decision was announced on Sunday, a bitter De La Hoya said he felt he beat Mosley. He said he would use his purse of $17 million to hire attorneys to investigate the scoring by the judges.

"This is not good for boxing anymore," said De La Hoya, who lost his 154-lb WBC and WBA titles to Mosley, the same man who beat him three years ago by split decision. The setback made De La Hoya 0-3 against Mosley, counting a defeat De La Hoya had absorbed when they were still amateurs.

I saw De La Hoya the winner, 118-116, but that does not mean I will not pay for the plate of seafood *pancit* canton, spiked with chops of *ampalaya*, that Valentin Dakuykoy had ordered at Peter Lee's after the fight. I lost, period.

Arum, the bitter rival of the flamboyant Don King when it comes to world mega fights, will be sent a letter inviting him to appear before the Nevada Athletic Commission and formally present his charges against the three judges.

"Mr. Arum has made some serious allegations," said Keith Kizer, the legal counsel of the Nevada Athletic Commission which sanctioned the fight. "We want to hear from our licensees (Arum & Company), and if they have a problem we want to know."

Nice move. Our own officials from the Games and Amusements Board should learn a thing or two from this action by the Nevada Athletic Commission, the same body that meted out stiff fines and punishment on Mike Tyson after Tyson chew Evander Holyfield's ear during their rematch in 1997. That action was warmly applauded by the world's boxing buffs.

"Last Sunday was not that bad if it was the beginning of the ultimate fight, the fight for a better future of boxing," said De La Hoya.

De La Hoya said he would never make any negative comments against the Nevada Athletic Commission. But he urged the body to tell the public how judges are selected and trained, and how scoring is done.

He was being diplomatic, of course. If I were him, I would have requested for rules on how blinders are worn by the boxing judges of today.

Are they used to cover only one eye?

***

If there's one person Detlef Schrempf would want to thank once he hits town next week, it is Fr. Nonie Dolor of De La Salle-Lipa (Batangas). Another is Jeff Flowers, the former MBA star. Dolor, together with Flowers, has laid the framework under which Schrempf, the two-time NBA Sixth Man of the Year and multiple All-Star Game veteran, would execute his adidas-backed "Understand the Game Campaign" in Lipa City on Oct. 3-4. Before that, Schrempf, who played for the Seattle SuperSonics, will hold his basketball camp in Olongapo on Sept. 26-28 and at the adidas Sports Kamp, Makati, on Sept. 30-Oct. 1.

Schrempf's visit is most welcome since his program attacks grassroots development.

My wish is, when Schrempf comes, he'll grant my request to sign a photograph showing him and me. It was taken in 1996, when I chanced upon him in a London airport while we were at the lounge waiting for our respective planes. The man who took the shot? George Karl, the respected NBA coach.

Cool, *di ba?*

NATIONS CUP

Promising start for Rosales-Que

BOSOM buddies Gerald Rosales and Angelo Que eagled the 15th hole on the way to a bestball score of four-under-par 68 yesterday that put the Philippine tandem in a tie for fourth place with Guam and Holland at the start of the Nations Cup—a qualifier for the World Cup of Golf—in Singapore.

Rosales and Que also conspired for four birdies that made up for their two bogeys at the Laguna National Golf and Country Club as the Filipinos stayed just two strokes off joint leaders Thailand (Jamnian Chitprasong/Pornsakon Tipsanit) and Myanmar (Kyi Hla Han/Aung Win).

Finland, represented by Sakari Aho and Mika Lehtinen, was running third with a 67.

China, Taiwan, Hong Kong and Sri Lanka were bunched in fourth after posting 69s.

It was Que who made things happen for RP on the first day, hitting tap-in birdies on Nos. 1 and 9 and that chip-in for eagle. Rosales birdied the 12th from five feet and again the 14th from 20 feet.

Both bogeyed the third and could have made it to second if not for another late bogey on the 17th.

The Philippines is eyeing one of the four slots for the World Cup proper in Kiawah Island, South Carolina in November.

Meanwhile, Frankie Miñoza made five birdies in a round of four-under-par 68 to share ninth place in the first round of the 100 million yen ANA Open at the Sapporo Golf Club in Hokkaido, Japan.

Jong Arcano

QUE: Combines for four birdies with Gerard Rosales. ROGER MARGALLO

LG TABLENET

Benilde bets advance

THREE mainstays of College of St. Benilde advanced to the championship round of the first LG Table Tennis age-group invitational championships yesterday at the Glorietta Activity Center in Makati.

WNCAA champion Diane Valdez, a computer application student at CSB, dropped the first set but fought back to defeat Jeryl Moreno, 9-11, 11-8, 11-5, 9-11, 13-11, in the semifinal round of the 20-under division.

The 18-year-old Valdez will face Ayra Malabayabas in one of today's finals.

Malabayabas came up with explosive shots in the decider to eke out an 11-8, 7-11, 11-6, 11-13, 11-9 win over Chrisma Capistrano.

Avegael Nolasco and Kristine Mae Vosotros arranged an all-CSB finale in the 25-under class after Nolasco outlasted Marell Lagunday, 11-6, 5-11, 11-9, 7-11, 11-6, and Vosotros advanced by walkover in the event put up by top electronics firm LG.

Isaias Seronio beat Rogel Flores and Michael Dalumpines defeated Leonardo de Leon to set up a clash for the men's 30-under crown.

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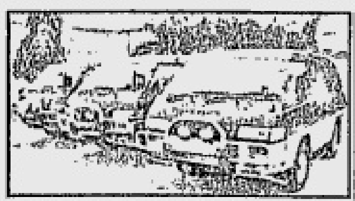
SEPT. 21, 2003



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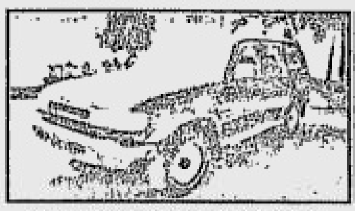

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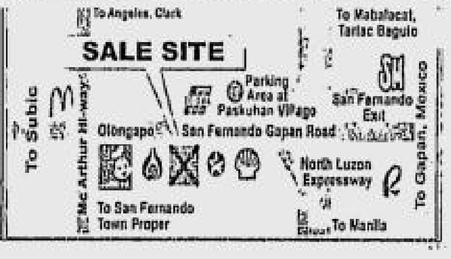


Congress to decide next 3As host

By Roy Luarca

THE ASIAN Athletics Association will hold its council meeting and congress today with all but one of the 45-member countries in attendance.

Only North Korea will not be represented in the morning council meeting set at the Bayview Hotel and the afternoon congress slated at the Century Park Sheraton, according to Philippine Amateur Track and Field Association president Go Teng Kok.

Strife-torn Iraq and war-ravaged Afghanistan, on the other hand, will be represented in the Congress although they were unable to field athletes for the 15th Asian Athletics Championships starting tomorrow and ending Tuesday at the Rizal track and field stadium.

Go said nearly 1,500 athletes, coaches, officials and guests are already in Manila for the four-day event the country is hosting for the third time. Then known as the 4As (Asian Amateur Athletics Association) championships, the event was also held in the Philippines in 1971 and 1993.

Sabandon joins Arcilla in last 8

CAGAYAN DE ORO CITY—Ninth seed Pop Sabandon of Marawi City ousted No.7 Antonio Sagansay, 3-6, 6-3,6-3, yesterday to reach the quarterfinals of the Cebuana Lhuillier Tennis Circuit at the Xavier Sports and Country Club court here.

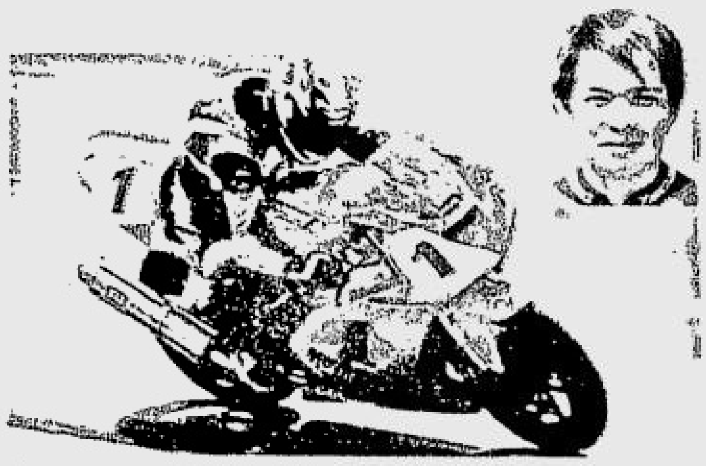
Sabandon, a former member of the La Salle tennis team, will next face national player Rolando Ruel Jr., a 6-2, 6-2 winner over No.16 Cebuano Ricardo Lagac Jr.

Top seed Johnny Arcilla and No. 3 Joseph Victorino, both of the Philippine Air Force, cruised into the last 8 of this Philta-sanctioned event offering P30,000 to the singles champion and P17,000 to the doubles winners.

Arcilla, eyeing a seventh straight title, outclassed 13th-ranked Roland Kraut, 6-0, 6-1, to advance against No. 5 Rocky Paglalunan, who won over No.11 Michael Mora III, 6-4, 6-3.

Victorino, on the other hand, clobbered No.14 Joel Palao of Iligan City, 6-1, 6-1, to advance against No.6 Alexander Lazaro, who conquered No. 10 Elbert Anasta, 6-2, 6-4.

Second seed Adelo Abadia, finalist in the Manila Polo Club leg, demolished No. 15 Gilbert Estrada, 6-0, 6-4, to forge a quarterfinal showdown against No. 12 Jesse Lapore, who won over No. 8 Jaime Solon, 6-1, 4-1 (ret.).



NO easing up for Jao.

Jao going all-out despite huge lead

ROSARIO, Batangas—Defending champion Jolet Jao tries to fend off a veteran rival and an aggressive young rider in a bid to clinch his seventh title when the Shell Advance Superbikes series resumes at the Batangas Racing Circuit here this Sunday.

Despite a hefty lead over the second-running Toti Alberto of Ducati Manila and upstart Benjo Mendoza of Dragon Spirit, Jao said he is not taking it easy going into the ninth race of the 12-race series.

After eight races, Jao has 179 points, with Alberto in second place at 131 and Mendoza third at 117.

"Anything can still happen in the last four races," said the 36-year-old rider from Antipolo. "In motorcycle racing, it's not over till it's over."

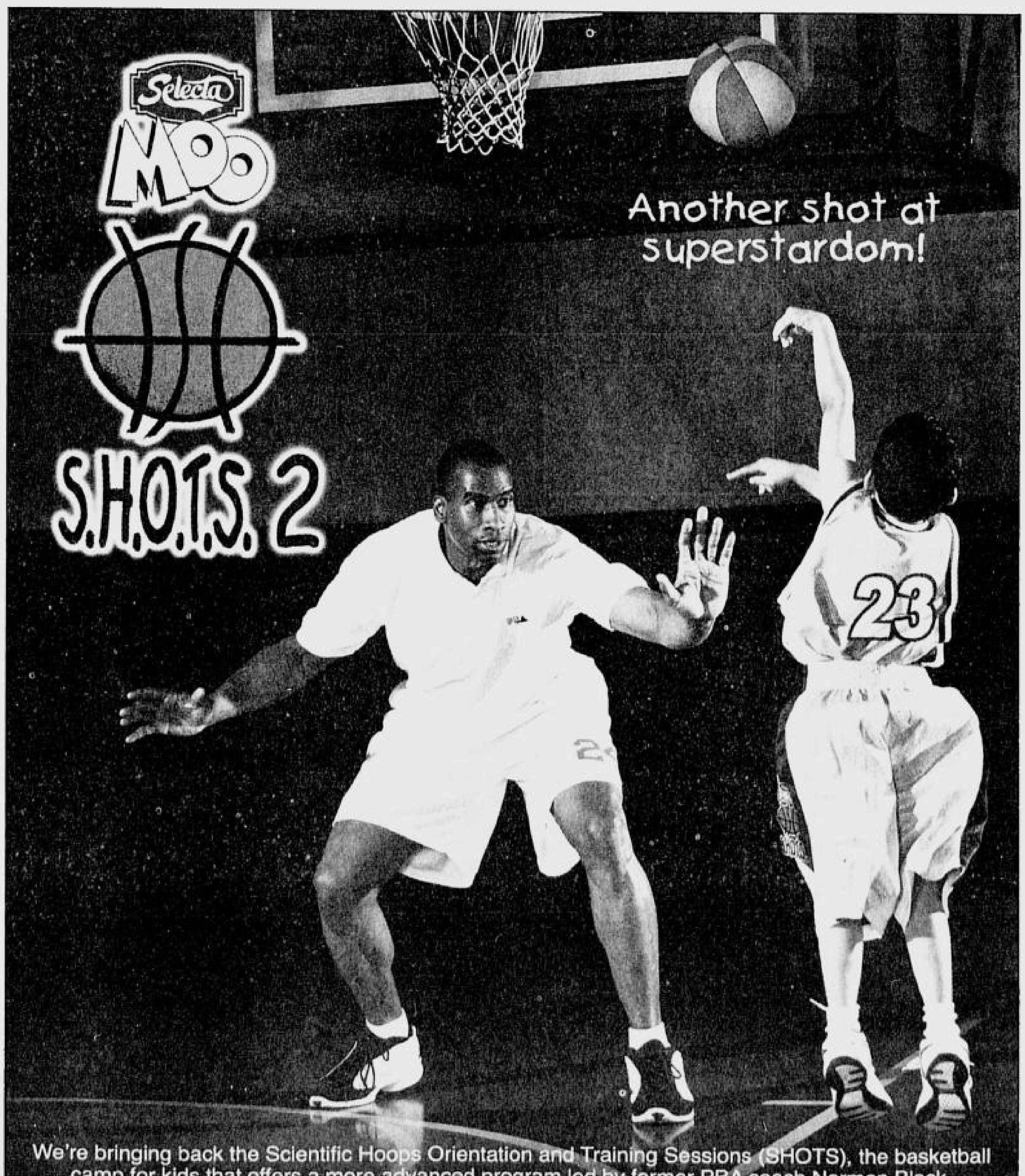
This was proven in the eighth race of the series last month.

Jao was leading up to the third lap when the race was halted due to rain. When the race resumed, Jao was overtaken by Alberto but he still was declared winner for having the faster time overall.

"My total time for the first three laps and the remaining seven laps was still faster than Toti's," said Jao. "There is really no room for complacency here," he added.

The Shell-sponsored Jao said he expects Alberto and Mendoza to do everything to prevent him from winning his seventh title, adding the two races this Sunday would be tougher than the previous ones.

Jao is wary of Mendoza, the youngest rider in the field, who is using the bike he rode in winning his sixth title last year. "He's very promising," he said of the 21-year-old rider from Marikina. "Given the time and exposure, he would be hard to beat."



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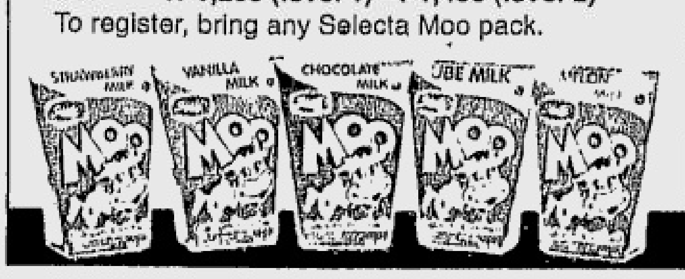

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Explosive Davis Cup semis up

PARIS—French Open champion and world number one Juan Carlos Ferrero and Wimbledon champion Roger Federer lead Spain and Switzerland into the Davis Cup semifinals this weekend.

Ferrero's Spain are favorites to beat injury-weakened Argentina in Malaga, who are expected to lose Guillermo Coria and David Nalbandian, currently ranked fifth and ninth in the world.

Both fell victim to the wear and tear of the US hard-court circuit and played their last matches at the US Open suffering from injuries.

Federer's Switzerland, trying to reach the finals for the first time since 1992, faces a more competitive match with Australia's Lleyton Hewitt and Mark Philippoussis in Melbourne.

Philippoussis gets a rematch with Federer who outclassed him in the Wimbledon final while Hewitt has declared himself completely recovered from a hip injury that hampered him at the US Open.

Swiss captain Marc Rosset is annoyed his Australian counterpart, John Fitzgerald, has refused to close the roof at the Rod Laver Arena at Melbourne Park.

Rosset wanted the roof closed, claiming the chilly temperatures could lead to an injury.

Spain has to choose between Albert Costa, Alex Corretja and Carlos Moya for the No. 2 singles spot.

In the World Group playoffs, Andy Roddick, leads the United States in Slovakia. *AFP*

KEEN FORM Maria Sharapova of Russia stretches for a return against Maria Sanchez Lorenzo of Spain at the Shanghai Open. Sharapova won, 4-6, 6-3, 6-4. REUTERS

Bata, Django prevail

FILIPINOS Efren "Bata" Reyes, Francisco "Django" Bustamante and US-based Santos Sambajon stayed unbeaten in Bracket 2 on Day Three of the 28th Annual US Open 9-ball championship at the Chesapeake Conference Center in Virginia.

The 49-year-old Reyes beat Buzzy Labriola, 11-4, to advance against Donnie Mills, who won over Scott Tollefson, 11-10.

Bustamante, on the other hand, nipped Jeff Pillon, 11-6, to arrange a showdown in the next round with the 43-year-old Sambajon, ninth placer in the 2002 edition, who walloped Hunter Lombardo, 11-5.

The winner of the Bustamante-Sambajon duel will be pitted against the survivor of the Reyes-Tollefson match.

Rodolfo "Boy Samson" Luat bounced back into contention by beating Bill Hammock, 11-2, in the losers' bracket. Luat bowed to Reyes, 11-6, on Day Two.

Other bracket 2 matches saw Earl Strickland edge Troy Frank, 11-10, and Nick Varner beat John Moody, 11-3. *With a report from Marlon Bernardino*

CRISANTO Canillo and Marychiel Minas raise their trophies for topping the recent Region II Milo marathon qualifying run in Baguio City. With them are (from left) Nestlé executive Christine Garcia, MMDA chair Bayani Fernando and marathon organizer Rudy Biscocho.

Biggest Milo regional elims in Cebu Sunday

OVER 10,000 runners are expected when the 14th and final regional elimination leg of the 27th National Milo Marathon fires off this Sunday in Cebu.

The biggest ever assembly of runners in the history of Cebu City will take off from Sumilon Rd., at the Cebu Business Park of the Ayala Center for the 20K run that will complete the starting field for the National Finals slated on Oct. 19 in Metro Manila.

The top three finishers in both the men's and women's divisions will join their counterparts from other provincial legs and the 213 qualifiers from Metro Manila for the final 42km test.

"This is the last chance for runners to qualify for the National Finals so we are expecting a good race," said Milo Marathon national organizer Rudy Biscocho.

The defending Cebu champions are Joseph Perales and Christy Sevilleno.

Invited to grace the kickoff rites are Cebu City Mayor Tomas R. Osmeña, councilor Manuel Legaspi, who is also chair of Cebu City DepEd school division, and Nestle executives from Manila.

Avia run stakes cash prizes

OVER P80,000 in cash prizes await the winners of the first Avia USA 10K Run on Oct. 12 at the PICC Grounds.

Also up for grabs in the race are trophies and medals, with the 10-K champion receiving P10,000, the runner-up P6,000, the third placer P4,000, fourth placer P2,000, and the 5th to 10 placers P1,000 each.

In the 5-K event, the champion gets the top purse of P5,000 while the runner-up bags P3,000. Third and fourth finishers pocket P2,000 and P1,000, respectively, while 5th to 10th placers get P500.

Finishers will receive T-shirts and certificates of completion.

Registration for the race, which will be supervised by veteran organizer Rudy Biscocho, starts today at the ground floor of the Vasquez Madrigal Plaza Bldg., at 51 Annapolis St. in Greenhills, San Juan. Registration fee is P100.

Avia USA advertising and promotions manager Rellie de Leon said that they are eyeing a running cast of 3,000 for the race.

Gejon takes on Agcopra

BALAMBAN, Cebu—World Boxing Council No.3 minimumweight Yukka Gejon fights Julius Agcopra tonight in the mainer of the "Binukbukay sa Balamban" at the town's municipal gym here.

The lanky power-punching Gejon owns a record of 15 wins (9 KOs) and a draw going into the 10-round clash with Agcopra in the card presented by Mayor Alex Binghay and promoted by Rex "Wakee" Salud.

Gejon is being groomed to challenge WBC champ Jose Antonio Aguirre of Mexico early next year.

In the co-feature, Gejon's older brother, Elmer, will take on Edwin Tacbobo. *Salven L. Lagumbay*

RACING TIPS

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Race 2—1. Quedan 2. Royal Bet 3. El Magnifico 4. Precious Time
Race 3—1. You and Me 2. Love Triangle 3. Memory Lane 4. Ilocos Princess 5. Ayra's Pet
Race 4—1. Pampanga Queen 2. Run Like D Wind 3. Trail Blazer
Race 5—1. Key to Heaven 2. Test Run 3. Gallant Rose 4. Time Specialist 5. Royal Harvest 6. King Ram
Race 6—1. Mrs. Big 2. Gemstone 3. Rapid Strike 4. Cryptorose
Race 7—1. May's Magic 2. Gentleman's Lady 3. Show Affection 4. Battle Tested 5. Roulette Queen
Race 8—1. Record Holder 2. Sovereign Queen 3. La Española
Race 9—1. Real Diamond 2. Earl Gray 3. Modern Classic 4. Powerhouse 5. Ann's Magic 6. War General

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SPORTSWATCH

Paragua co-leader in Spain

FILIPINO Mark Paragua beat fellow IM Aryam Delgado Abreu of Cuba to remain on top with two others after the sixth round of the VII Open International De Ajedrez Parla Wednesday night in Madrid, Spain. Paragua now has five wins and one draw for a total of 5.5 points, the same output of GM Azer Mirzoev of Azerbaijan and IM Javier Moreno Ruiz of Spain. In the seventh round, Paragua will be handling black against Ruiz while Mirzoev will be meeting IM Luis Manuel Perez Rodriguez of Cuba. Meanwhile, Asian 3.2a Zonal champion Ronald Dableo and Imelda Aguilar will open the 3rd leg of the Las Piñas Chess Club non-master active chess tournament tomorrow. Contact Boy Rabe at mobile (0919) 602-4455 for details. *With a report from Marlon Bernardino*

Emar Learning booters prevail

DAVAO CITY—Emar Learning Center leaned on Clifford Dacera's three goals to beat Holy Child School (Main), 4-0, recently in the Davao provincial Coke Go-for-Goal under-16 football tournament at the Agro field here. Ernesto Jubay completed produced the other Emar marker in the Group D contest. In other games, SOS Children's Village blanked Rizal Memorial Colleges B, 4-0, Sekolah Indonesia Davao routed Holy Child Buhangin, 8-0, and Crossing Bayabas nosed out University of Mindanao High, 2-1. Jose and Albert Sabuero, Joseph Cinco and Carlito Panoili knocked in a goal each for SOS, while Joey Arobo and Ryan Barredo delivered Crossing Bayabas' twin markers. The tourney is organized by the Davao Football Association, sanctioned by the Philippine Football Federation and sponsored by Coca-Cola Export Phils.

Mapua XI protests loss to RP U-20

CASPER Ngo, head coach of the Mapua Tech football squad, filed a protest with the "Ang Liga" organizers immediately after the thrashing they received from the Philippines Under-20 (RP U-20) squad. Ngo was not particularly referring to the end score but to the fact that three players of the U-20 were on the pitch in an official tournament sanctioned by the Philippine Football Federation without their official uniforms. Ngo said, "The technical committee of the PFF in charge of our National Squads should never allow its players to play without uniform when representing or playing as our national team." The RP U-20 is using the "Ang Liga" tournament as preparation for international competition in October. The RP U-20, ably-handled by assistant coach Lloyd Lim, completely dominated Mapua for 90 minutes Sunday at the España pitch. The Nationals got their goals from Lord-J (2), Meliton Pelayo (1), Nayeem Tahil (1) and Striker Santos (2).

Zambo U-19 team in deep training

THE UNDER-19 squad of Zamboanga is presently training at the Regional Football Training Center, Joaquin F. Enriquez Jr. Memorial Sports Complex, Baliwasan, Zamboanga City. The coach of the team is former Ateneo standout D'Artanan "Nonong" Coscolluella and assisted by Western Mindanao State University High School coach Blasito "Blaze" Garcia. Erwin Bernardo, Zamboanga Football Association (Zafa) general secretary announced that the squad will be led by former "Coke Go-for-Goal" stars Al-Faizar Tahil at midfield, keeper Arnel Guillo, sweeper Edwin Envidiado, midfielder Philip Andrew Enriquez and striker Julious Jacinto. The Zamboanga squad is made up of sixteen players. Vicente "Mister T" Torres, Zafa president said, "I am confident the team will pull off some surprises in Iloilo at this year's Adidas U-19 Championship.

UCAA officials SCOOP guests

WHETHER St. Francis College's Ranidel de Ocampo and Irwin Sotto can still reinforce the beleaguered Philippine team in the coming Asian Basketball Confederation championship late this month will be known in today's SCOOP sa Kamayan weekly session at the Kamayan Restaurant on West Avenue in Quezon City. Art Orias, St. Francis' sports director and president of the Universities and Colleges Athletic Association, and Tisha Abundo of Philippine School of Business Administration, host of the country's newest students league, will grace today's session to discuss the outcome of the Basketball Association's request for De Ocampo and Sotto to rejoin the nationals for the Sept. 23 to Oct. 1 tournament in China. The session, sponsored by Photokina Marketing, starts at 11 a.m. and will be aired live over Sports Radio.

Pasay 5-stag derby today

A WIDE open race for the championship looms as cockfighting big shots collide in a super 5-stag derby at the air-conditioned Pasay City Cockpit today, with Sagupaan Hammer, Sagupaan Mite Free and Sagupaan B-50 Forten as sponsors. Hosts are sabong idol Patrick Antonio and Ramon Mancenares of Negros Occidental. Vying for the title tonight are Antonio, Tony Lasala, Pol Estrellado, Vice Mayor Nestor Mercado, Lito Orillaza, Gerry Ramos of Las Piñas, Renato Shio, Jun Topacio of Mandaluyong, William Co, Jet Fernando, Magno Lim, Madlambayan Brothers, Jun Jingco, Bo de Roca, Joey and Buboy delos Santos, Muroy Dolorico, Jake Macasaet, among others. PCC managers Oscar Gonzales, Eric de la Rosa and Butchoy Olano announced that seven to eight fights per hour, non-stop, will be held because of the big number of fights. Interested parties may contact 843-1746, 843-1890 and 816-6750.

Pasig race seeks clubs' participation

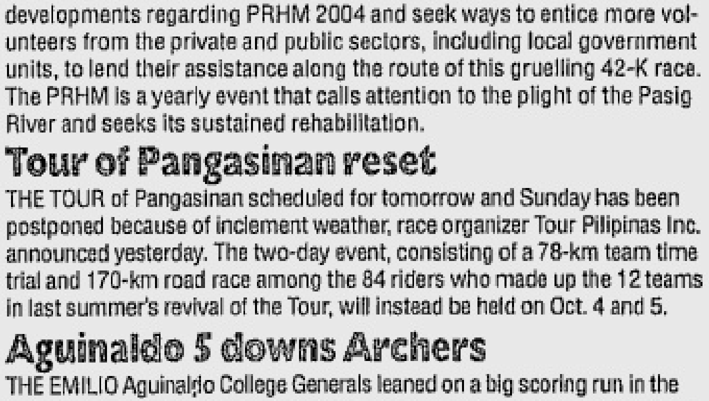
THE CLEAN and Green Foundation, Inc., organizers of the Pasig River Heritage Marathon (PRHM), is again inviting heads and key members of running clubs to attend a Forum on the 4th Pasig River Heritage Marathon on Sunday, Sept. 21 at 9 a.m. The Forum, which will be held at the Orchidarium and Butterfly Pavillion at Rizal Park, will discuss new developments regarding PRHM 2004 and seek ways to entice more volunteers from the private and public sectors, including local government units, to lend their assistance along the route of this gruelling 42-K race. The PRHM is a yearly event that calls attention to the plight of the Pasig River and seeks its sustained rehabilitation.

Tour of Pangasinan reset

THE TOUR of Pangasinan scheduled for tomorrow and Sunday has been postponed because of inclement weather, race organizer Tour Pilipinas Inc. announced yesterday. The two-day event, consisting of a 78-km team time trial and 170-km road race among the 84 riders who made up the 12 teams in last summer's revival of the Tour, will instead be held on Oct. 4 and 5.

Aguinaldo 5 downs Archers

THE EMILIO Aguinaldo College Generals leaned on a big scoring run in the first period to defeat La Salle Manila, 79-72, in the Universities and Colleges Athletic Association (UCAA) men's basketball tournament at the Tanduay gym in Quiapo. It was the Generals' seventh win in 12 games, formalizing their entry into the Final Four and the right to face the Philippine School of Business Administration Jaguars in the semifinals. The winless Green Archers rallied to within six points in the final quarter behind a 26-13 surge starring Pablo Espiritu and Julius Navarra. But timely snipings from John Valderama and Howard Zaleta kept the Generals out of trouble. The La Salle-Dasmariñas Patriots were fourth at 6-6 despite sharing the same card with top seed St. Francis Doves. The Doves claimed top spot in the semis via 12-0 sweep after beating the Wildcats, 81-62, last Monday. Ranidel de Ocampo and Al Vergara shot 21 and 13 points, respectively, for the Doves.



SHELL CHESS. The four finalists from the Western Visayas leg of the 2003 Shell National Youth Active Chess Championship—juniors division runner-up Ernie Abangco (second from left), kiddies runner-up Douglas Perez; kiddies champion Ariel Cornel and juniors champion Ellan Asuela —with Shell executive Ma. Victoria C. Medina during the awarding ceremony held at the Montelibano Community Center in Bacolod City.

ENTERTAINMENT

E-mail: pr_entertainment@inquirer.com.ph

Editor Louie C. Camino

Dolphy movie still out of Magic 10

By Nini Valera

MALONZO

THE DOLPHY film project "Harry Father," which was ranked 11th among the entries in the 2003 Metro Manila Film Festival, will still not be among the 10 finalists in the December film fest even after Star Cinema withdrew "Milan."

Caloocan City Mayor Rey Malonzo, who is also overall vice chair of the MMFF, said in a news conference last Wednesday that Dolphy had wanted to replace his entry with another script. But Malonzo said this was against the selection process, which was based on scripts or story lines of movies submitted to the selection committee last June.

"We already judged the script of 'Harry Father,' and it was the no. 11 choice," Malonzo explained in Filipino. "He (Dolphy) cannot just replace it with another script and still be included among the 10 finalists."

This leaves director Elwood Perez's "Bituin, Buwan at Araw," starring Nora Aunor, as the next choice. The movie was in 12th place.

Malonzo, however, said the committee would still have to decide if it would get a 10th entry.

"We might just have nine films competing," he said, adding that he still has to find out if "Bituin's" producer is interested in filling up the slot.

Whether or not Nora Aunor will have a festival entry is insignificant to Seiko producer Robbie Tan, whose yet untitled film is among the nine remaining finalists.

"Based on historical records, Nora never had a movie that made money, whether it was shown in a festival or not," Tan said in a recent interview. "Not in the past 15 years. If she has a festival entry, it must be a super production to overcome that negative factor."

Box-office boost

Star Cinema pulled out "Milan" from the filmfest after the producers felt the movie would not be finished for the Dec. 25 play date. Parts of the movie will be shot in Milan, Italy, and the production had encountered problems obtaining Italian visas for the cast and crew. The production team and the cast managed to fly to Milan last week to begin a

DOLPHY/ A30

Joe Mari Chan: I know I can't fill up the Big Dome /A30

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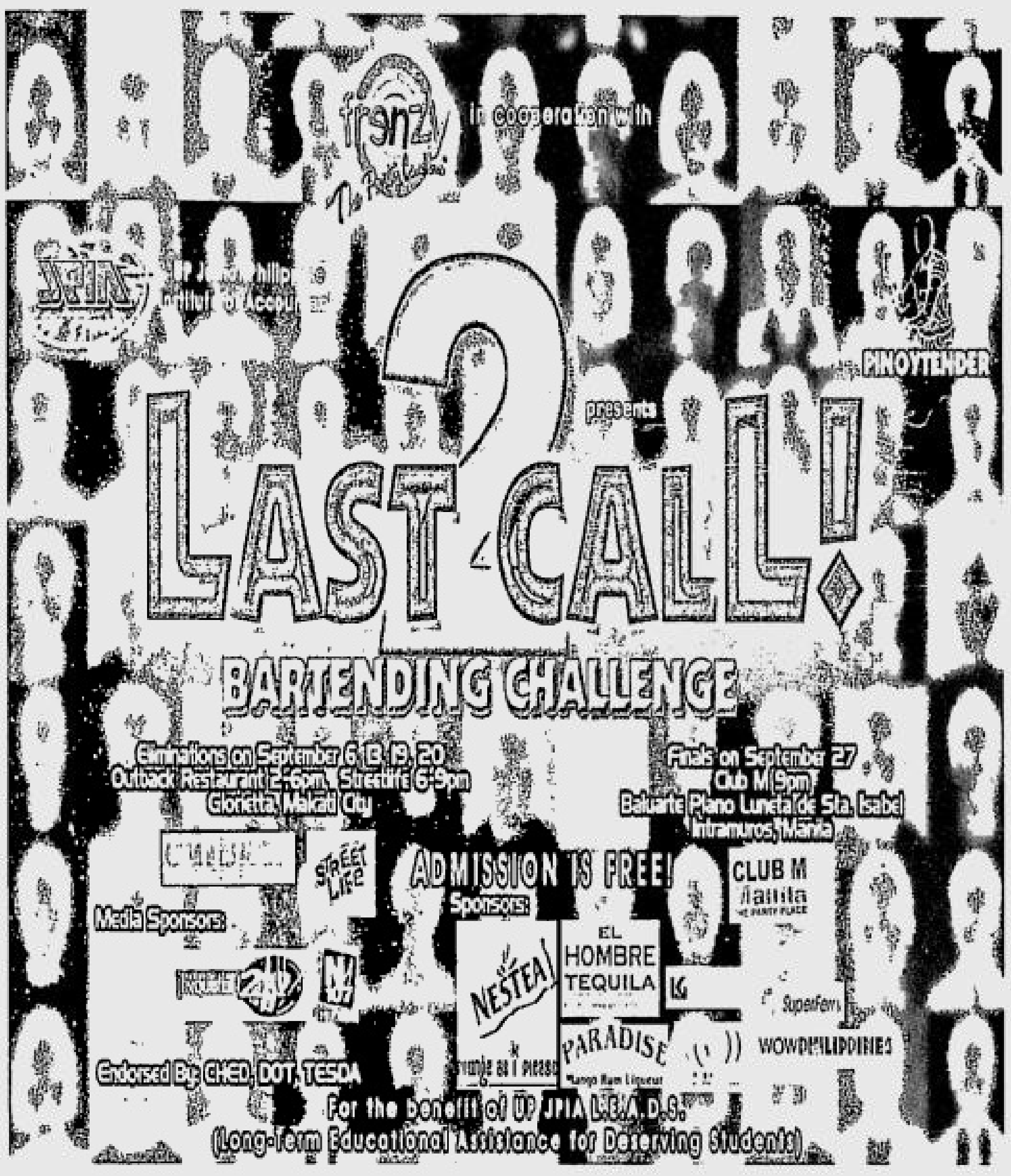
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Floodwater may contain not only garbage but urine, dead animals like rats, cats or dogs, or even at times, feces. As such a variety of organisms may lurk in these floodwaters. And many of these bacteria can enter the body through the minutest openings in the skin. That is why, if you and/or members of your family come into contact with floodwater, it is advisable to wash the exposed parts of the body with soap and clear water as you can. But better yet, use an antiseptic solution such as Betadine Skin Cleanser. A product of Pascual Laboratories, Inc., Betadine Skin Cleanser contains 7.5% Povidone-Iodine, a proven and well-known broad-spectrum microbine. It has 99.9% "germ-killing" action. In just 30 seconds, Betadine Skin Cleanser can kill microbes which belong to 5 major classes of micro-organisms: spores, yeast or fungi, protozoa, bacteria and virus. It is therefore safe to say that no microbe can escape the disinfecting power of Betadine Skin Cleanser.

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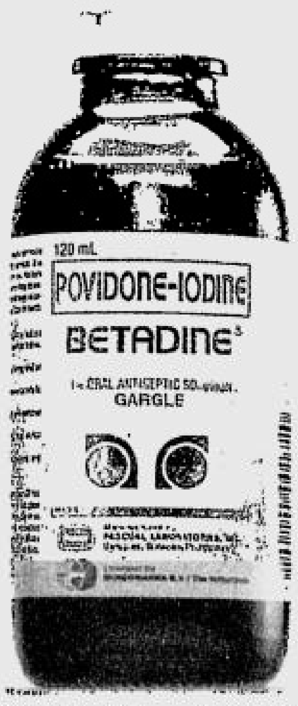
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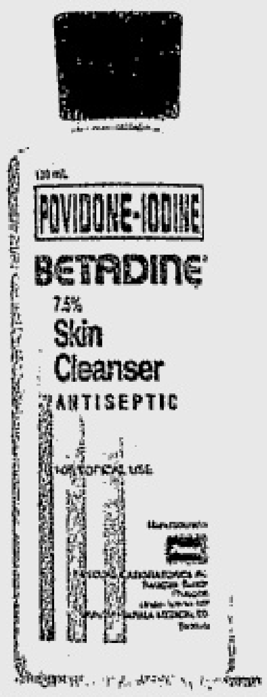
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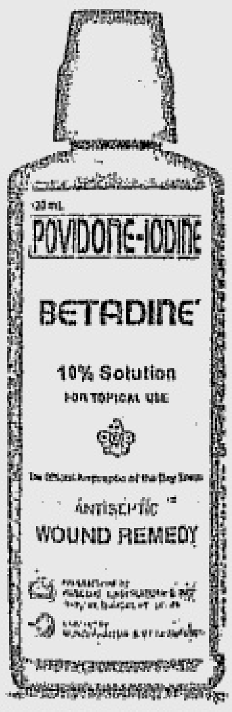
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VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

HOST: Is it true that you have had a lot of plastic surgery done on your body to prepare you for your career as a sexy star?

Guest: *Hindi totoo 'yon. Ilong ko lang ang rinetoke. Linagyan lang ng* braids *para tumangos!*

(Braids on the nose?!—Oh bridge!)

* * *

Host: What about frontal nudity, are you willing to do it?

Guest: Please, no way! That far from what I was do!

(*Ano raw?*)

* * *

Host: What do you have to say to the people who have been sending you threats through text messages?

Guest: One thing only: It doesn't timidate at me!

(Good for you!)

* * *

Host: One of your enemies wants to make peace with you now. What is your reaction to her peace offering?

Guest: Well, I give her a credit for that one!

(Just one credit, huh!)

* * *

Host: Your former best friend is mad at you because she says you have been spreading false rumors about her being pregnant.

Guest: It's not false, it's true. Even when we performed last year yet, she was already pregnine that time!

(Pregnant for nine months?-Pregnine *nga!*)

* * *

Host: How did the concert you saw do last weekend?

Guest: It was entertaining, but sad to say, it only had a half-filled audience.

(Ah, please repeat?)

* * *

Host: What's your name?

Guest: Joy.

Host: And what about you, what's your name?

Guest 2: Joyce.

Host: Ah, *dinagdagan mo lang ng s!*

(What grade did you get in spelling in grade school?)

* * *

Host: What do you have to say to your friend on her birthday today?

Guest: I owe everything to her, all that's happened to my career in show biz. She's like a fairy good mother to me!

(Well, that's —good!)

* * *

Host: *Sino naman yang kasama mo sa* picture, boyfriend *mo?*

Guest: *Hindi*, coffee *sina ko lang siya.*

(Coffee *sina?*—Coffee *sina?*—Oh, *kaopisina!*)

* * *

Host: What do you have to say about the topic up for discussion today?

Guest: Ah, with your permission, I would like to diverse from the topic for today.

(*Ay*, diverse from the topic!)

Dream Theater, Channel

THE CCP'S Dream Theater and pay-per-view Dream Channel are offering alternative viewing fare this month:

Outstanding short films are represented in the "New Visions" module from Sept. 19 to 21 at the Dream Theater and on the Dream Channel from Sept. 19 to 25.

The films in the module include "Light Shadows" by **Ellen Ramos**, "Hulikotekan" by **Tad Hermitaño**, "Mar Elepaño Exercises" by various directors, "Hulot and Binukot" by **Theresa Tejero**, "Rocker Janis" by **Roxlee**, and "Botong" by **Narciso Prayapo**.

From Sept. 26 to 28 at the CCP Dream Theater and Sept. 26 to Oct. 2 at the CCP @ Dream Channel, "New Docus" screens: "Tin Can" by **Herbert Narvasa**, "Palugid" by **Paolo Villaluna**, and "Batingaw" by **Lawrence Cordero**.

Dream Theater Specials for September highlight works by acclaimed Hong Kong filmmaker **Wong Kar Wai**: on Sept. 24, "Happy Together" focuses on Yiu-Fai and Po-Wing, who arrive in Argentina and take to the road on holiday. But something is wrong, and their relationship goes adrift.

Also on Sept. 24, "Chungking Express" presents a kinetic, offbeat look at Hong Kong by way of two stories—one about a young woman who has been double-crossed in a heroin deal, and the other about a police officer whose girlfriend has left him.

For more details, call the CCP Film Division at 832-1125 local 1704. For CCP @ Dream Channel screenings, call 918-8000.

He can't fill up Araneta with thousands, but he fills up thousands of hearts

By Fran Katigbak

"I HAVE to be honest. I don't think I can fill up the Araneta Coliseum."

You wouldn't expect Jose Mari Chan, who has been in the music business a good 36 years, to admit it would now be difficult for him to pack one of Manila's biggest concert halls. But admit it he did, during the launch of the second volume of his songbook, "Words and Music Jose Mari Chan," at the Tower Club in Makati.

Joe Mari said he could have filled the Big Dome at the height of the popularity of his songs "Beautiful Girl," "Christmas in Our Hearts" and "Please Be Careful with My Heart." Not now, though, he said. Even if he could boost his popularity by making the kind of music preferred by listeners, such as those sung by the Taiwanese hitmaker F4 boy band, he chooses not to because the music would only be a spin-off.

"People will say 'the music is derivative, *parang ginaya 'yung* F4,'" he said. "If I'm not honest with my art, I shouldn't be [called] an artist but a draftsman."

Unforgettable

The Jose Mari Chan music can be described as a blend of Don Moen's inspirational gospel songs, the late John Denver's light but catchy country music, and Barry Manilow's nostalgic, romantic ballads. But it is Joe Mari's mellifluous, gentle voice matched with lyrical substance and heart-warming melodies that make his compositions such OPM classics.

Only the maker of such classics can be humble enough to admit he couldn't fill the Big Dome now. Who could forget these lines, for example: "I'll be right beside you forever/I won't let our world fall apart/From the very start I'll be careful with your heart"?

What romantic person wouldn't admit having had LSS, or last-song syndrome, upon hearing these lines, "And while the song still brings that certain glow/ And the words still sing of love I know/ It isn't quite the way it was before/I remember the boy, but I don't remember the feeling anymore" from "I Remember the Boy," interpreted by Joey Albert and later by Lea Salonga?

And since the '80s, people have been celebrating the holidays to the tune of "Christmas in Our Hearts."

Recognition

These and other hits came from the man who, back in the '70s, wrote the music for the movies of Lino Brocka, Celso Ad Castillo, Luciano Carlos, Nestor Torre and Jose Nepomuceno. Joe Mari recalls that scoring films was a taxing job for which he was paid meagerly, as rates dictated then, even when he worked 24 hours on certain days.

Joe Mari has 11 albums to his name, two diamond record awards (each amounting to 10 platinum awards, or 400,000 copies sold), an accumulated 37 platinum awards, and recognition from the award-giving bodies Awit, Katha, Tinig Awards of the National Press Club, Aliw Awards Foundation, Metro Pop Foundation and the Famas.

His songs have been sung by the biggest names in the recording industry such as Broadway's Lea Salonga, The CompanY, Regine Velasquez, Gary Valenciano, Joey Albert, Sharon Cuneta, Nonoy Zuñiga, Jaya, Marco Sison, Cris Villongco, Aliya Parcs, Tootsie Guevara, Ima Castro, Janet Basco, Celeste Legaspi and the Apo Hiking Society.

Artists from Australia, Taiwan, Hong Kong and Japan have also adopted his compositions.

As a performer, Joe Mari has had TV specials, Philippine tours, shows in Asian cities and US concert venues like New York's Carnegie Hall and The Bellagio in Las Vegas. Yet, the humble artist also admits his repertoire is limited.

"I am not as versatile as other concert artists who can sing Top 40 songs," he said. "I usually sing maybe two or three new songs that are not too familiar. Then I sing all my hits. People appreciate that. First of all, they go to the concert to hear those songs.

"That's my handicap," he added. "I only sing my original compositions."

His kids

Joe Mari, who is also busy running the family business of sugar milling and trading, says music may not take up all of his time but it takes up all of his heart.

"My songs are like my children," he said. "When I write a song, I want it to reach its maximum potential. They're all equal. Each child is unique, different.

"My hope is that future generations would also discover my music," he added. "The hope of every composer is for his songs to outlive him and to be sung long after he's gone."

His first songbook, containing the lyrics, piano notes and guitar chords of 21 of his songs, was released in 2001. Its success spawned Volume 2, which has 24 songs.

"Ten years from now, the arrangements will sound old fashioned, obsolete, outdated," said the singer and composer. "They won't be played on the radio anymore. But if you have these songs in a songbook, (other artists) could make their own arrangements, their own interpretation."

"Words and Music Jose Mari Chan" is sold in major bookstores and record outlets.

TIMELESS. The arrangements will become outdated, but the music of Jose Mari Chan will stay forever.

Merk's marks 1 with special

SHOW TIME

MERK'S Bar Bistro is celebrating its first anniversary on Wednesday, Sept. 24, with a special lineup of guests.

Slated to perform at Merk's that night are Anna Fegi, Jacqui Magno, Merk & Friends, with Judith Banal, Forte, Romy Posadas, Ramon Acoymo and surprise guests.

Merk's Bar Bistro is on the third level of Greenbelt 3 at the Ayala Center in Makati City. Its cuisine, courtesy of the Bistro Remedios kitchen, is available for lunch and dinner.

Incidentally, Bistro Remedios, the first Filipino bistro opened by restaurateur Larry Cruz at the corner of Remedios and M. Adtriatico streets in Malate, is 20 years old this September.

For inquiries and reservations at Merk's, call 757-4720 or 757-4721. Visit the Merk's Bar Bistro website at merksbarbistro.com or e-mail mail@merksbarbistro.com.

Dolphy movie still out...

From page A29

three-week shoot.

With "Milan" out of the running, the box-office prospects of Viva's "Paano Kita Pasasalamatan" will be given a boost. Both movies are about overseas Filipino workers, and have all-star casts and foreign location shoots. A third film, director Gil Portes' "The Homecoming," is also about overseas Filipino workers, but it is a small film compared to Viva's and Star Cinema's mega productions.

Viva's Vic del Rosario, however, felt that the absence of "Milan" in the festival would diminish the luster of the industry's most prestigious awards competition.

"It's not often that the major movie outfits each have an entry in this festival," he said in Filipino during a cell phone conversation yesterday. "It's sad 'Milan' couldn't make it in time. It would have been a good movie for the festival."

But Bong Revilla is back with "Captain Barbell," a co-production between Viva and Premier Productions. Revilla, whose earlier entry from Imus Productions was withdrawn, will play the title role based on a *komiks* character. Ogie Alcasid co-stars with Revilla as the young Capt. Barbel.

Despite a star-studded movie lineup that includes the likes of Sharon Cuneta, Maricel Soriano, Bong Revilla, Richard Gomez and a score of younger stars, this year's filmfest is again beset by the usual problems.

Money worries

Financial difficulties remain the biggest headache of Malonzo, who said the festival only has P10 million as of yesterday.

"I have written letters to several government agencies like Pagcor to help us this year," he said.

So far, there have been no takers.

Last year, Malonzo was given P50 million by President Macapagal-Arroyo. Most of the money was used as incentives for film producers whose entries made it as finalists. Each producer received P4 million as incentive.

Malonzo said he is embarrassed to ask Malacañang for help since last year's festival was hounded by intrigues and controversy, including a lawsuit filed by producers of director William Mayo's "Lapu-lapu," starring Pampanga Gov. Lito Lapid.

But he's still hoping for the best.

"If 'Tanging Ina' could make P300 million in its nationwide run, I am sure the MMFF can beat that in Metro Manila," he predicted.

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‘Bennifer’ not over yet

HE HAD "second thoughts," she was "devastated," but the process is not yet over.

SHOW STOPPER

LOS ANGELES—The fabled love story of Hollywood's hottest couple, Ben Affleck and Jennifer Lopez, is in serious trouble, but the couple have not called it quits yet, sources close to the stars said Tuesday.

The superstars had been due to be married at a lavish ceremony in California on Sunday but cancelled their nuptials at the last minute, citing excessive press interest and sparking widespread speculation that they had split up.

"They're not over yet," said one source close to the pair, dubbed "Bennifer" by media because of their inseparability in public since announcing in November that they would wed.

"They are having some trouble, but you don't go from getting married on Sunday to being totally off," the source said. "It takes a process to get there, and while that process has started, we are not at that point yet."

The comments came amid a media frenzy over the fate of the most feted celebrity union since Elizabeth Taylor and Richard Burton ignited the tabloid pages in the 1960s.

People magazine reported that the couple—who flew off to separate US destinations at the weekend after canceling their wedding, which was to have been attended by 400 luminaries—have ended their year-old relationship for the moment at least.

But the sources said Tuesday that the magazine had jumped the gun, even as reports quoted an Affleck insider as saying that the couple had split after he initiated a breakup.

Some reports have said that pals of 31-year-old heartthrob Affleck had staged an "intervention" and persuaded him to split up with the 33-year-old diva.

The People report quoted Lopez insiders as saying she was "devastated" after Ben had "second thoughts" about their union.

And as Lopez frolicked alone on the beach in Miami and Affleck was spotted in the casino hub of Las Vegas, other reports suggested that J Lo had had enough of Ben's gambling and was annoyed over his visit to a strip club.

The couple became friendly in December 2001, on the set of their movie "Gigli," the box office mega-flop of the summer, and said they began dating after Lopez split up with her second husband, Cris Judd, in July.

The singer and actress earlier was married to Ojani Noa. "Pearl Harbor" star Affleck has never wed. Last week the couple announced they were postponing their wedding after the world's press invaded the California town of Santa Barbara, where the ceremony was to have taken place.

"When we found ourselves seriously contemplating hiring three separate 'decoy brides' at three different locations, we realized that something was awry," they said in a statement issued by Lopez's publicist. "We began to feel that the spirit of what should have been the happiest day of our lives could be compromised. We felt what should have been a joyful and sacred day could be spoiled for us, our families and our friends." *AFP*

Classics with a twist

SHOW TIME

WHAT if classical music were given a new twist? Imagine, for instance, a Bach ode in a pulsating hip hop groove, or an operatic rendition of the rock anthem, "A Whiter Shade of Pale"? How about a swinging big band version of the OPM classic, "'Til I Met You," or a jazzy spin to the Beatles' "Here Comes the Sun"?

This fusion of classical and jazz, rock and rap will be performed in "Tux 'n' Jeans Onstage" on Sunday, Sept. 21, at 7 p.m. at Onstage Theater, Greenbelt 1, Makati City.

The performers include Robert Seña, Lisa Cabahug, Lynn Sherman, Cynthia Alexander, Eladio Pamaran, Jonathan Badon, Mon David, Federico Eiguchi, Sylvia Gomez, The Manoeuvres, the Pundaquit Virtuosi String Ensemble, and the Ugoy-Ugoy Band.

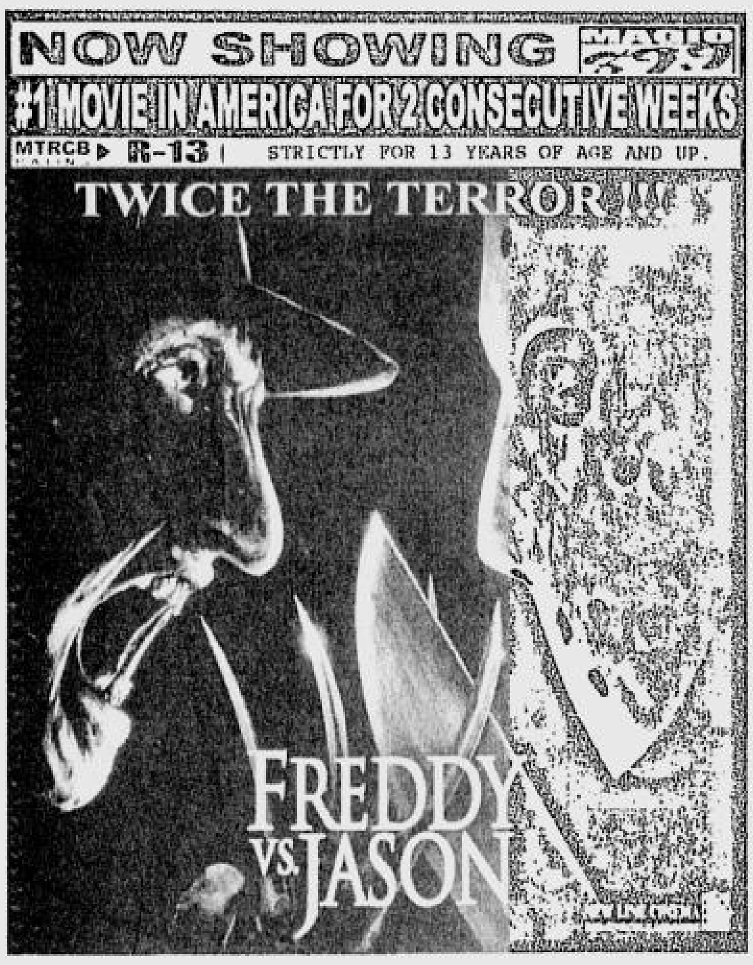
Bond Samson is the musical director.

Produced by Creative Futures Inc., "Tux 'n' Jeans Onstage" is meant to raise resources to help establish The Meridian International Learning Experience, a multi-disciplinary institution that will provide access to a world-class educational environment grounded on Christian values and virtues. The Meridian opened in June 2003 to pre-school children, but it is still in the process of expanding to accommodate grade school students and even higher levels.

Tickets are available at the B-Room, 2nd Floor, Crossroad 77, Mother Ignacia cor. Scout Reyes, Quezon City, tel. 373-9336.

DID YOU KNOW...

Is it true that actress **Mylene Dizon** has broken up with **Ira Cruz**, former guitarist of Passage and now a member of the Kapatid band? The 27-year-old actress is now said to be playing sweet music with fellow "Tabing Ilog" mainstay **Paolo Paraiso**, who is several years younger.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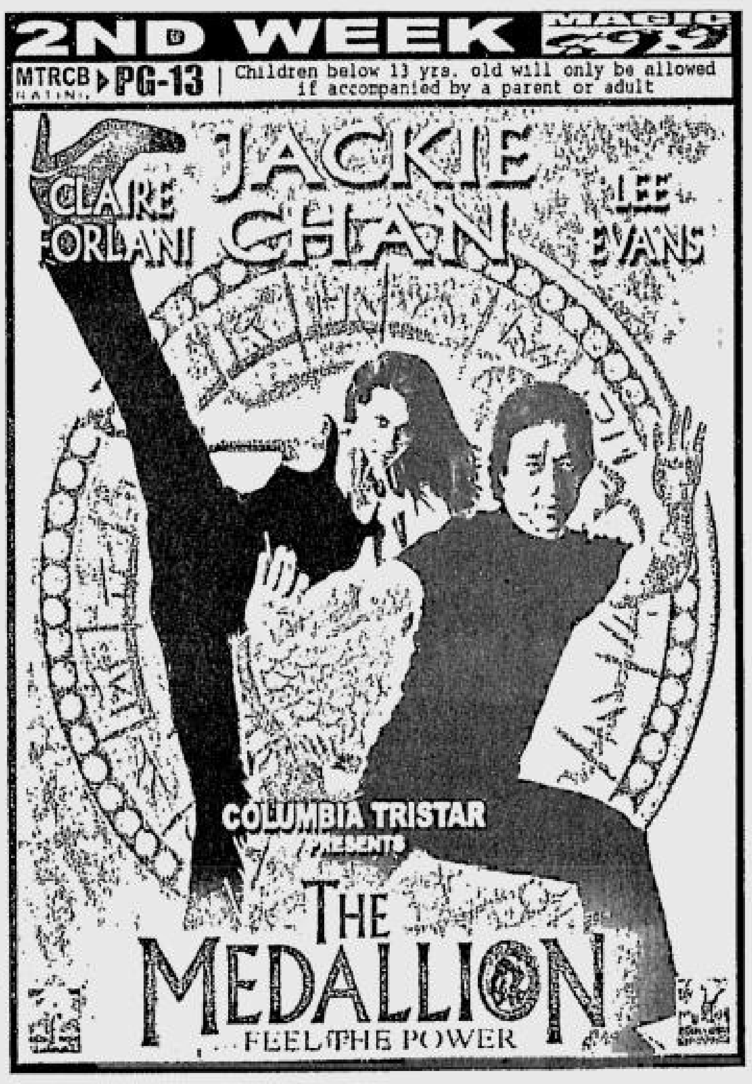
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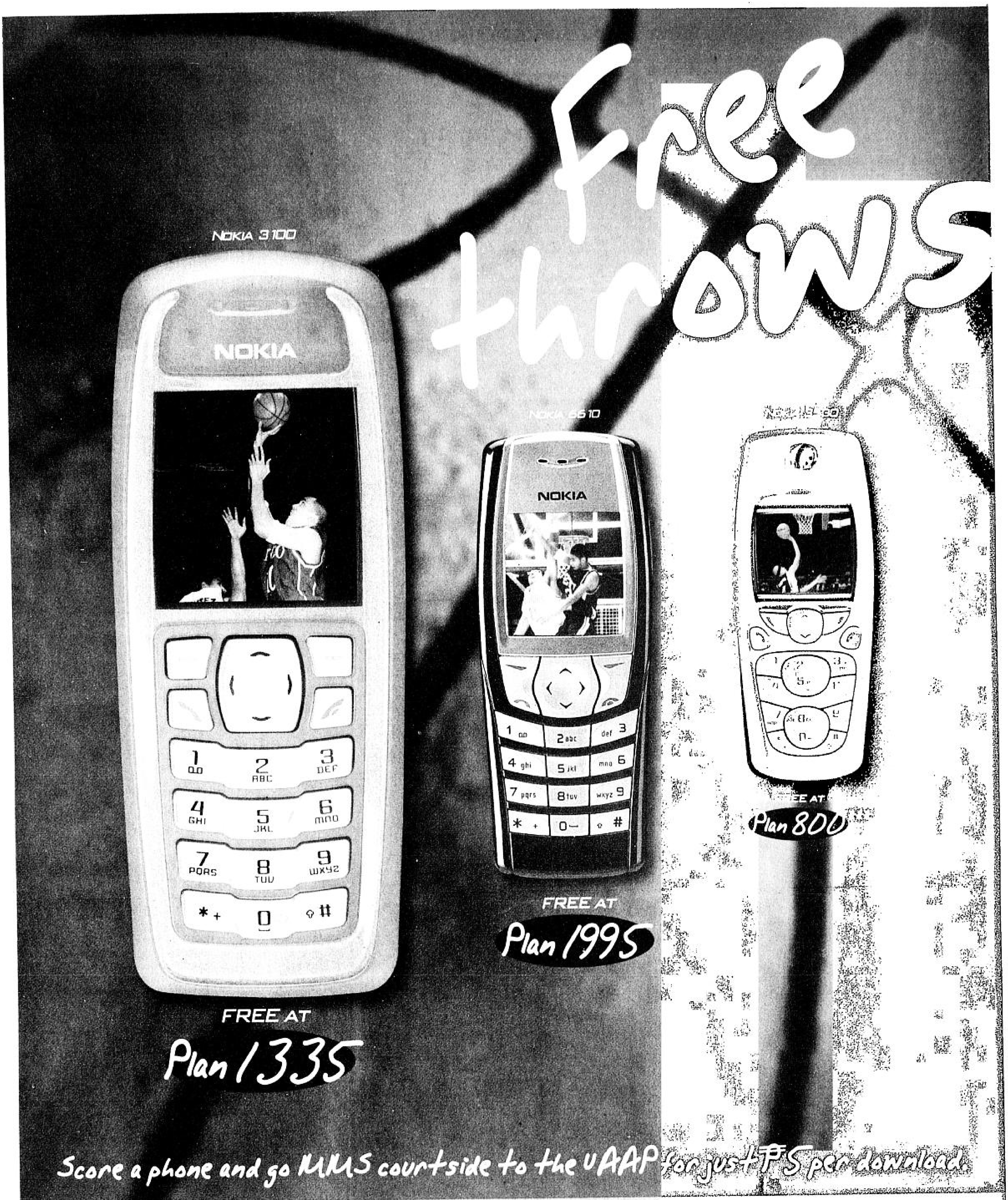
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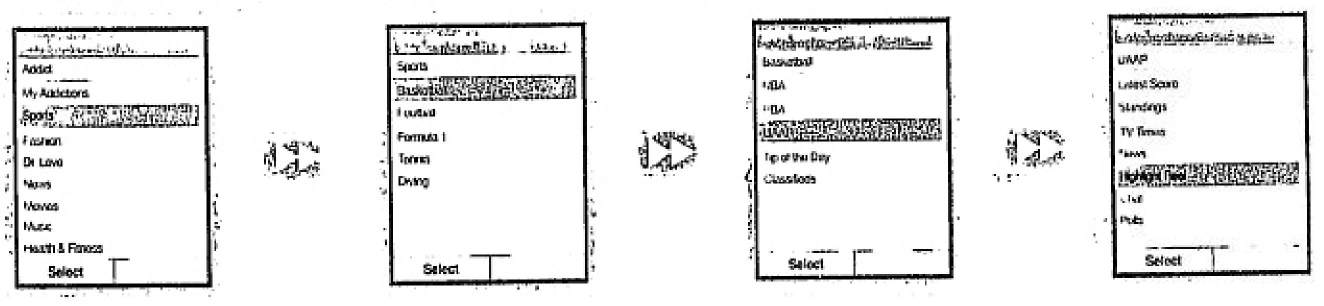
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Budget gap swells to ₱18.16B in August

By Clarissa S. Batino

AGGRESSIVE payment of obligations swelled the government's budget deficit to P18.16 billion in August, exceeding last month's P8.115-billion target by P10 billion or 124 percent.

Still, the gap between expenditures and revenues for the first eight months stood at P113.565 billion or P13.8 billion lower than the P127.5-billion target.

"We continue to be on track, especially on revenues and are confident the P202-billion target would be met. But we will be a little more cautious in spending after we have used up much of the headroom from the previous months," Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho said yesterday.

Budget Secretary Emilia Boncodin admitted that spending was a bit overdone in August and vowed to tighten on expenditures anew.

Spending in August rose to P68.4 billion, higher than the P59.57-billion target. Camacho said the government settled P4.7 billion in obligations unpaid in the previous months and disbursed about P1.5 billion to pay accounts with government agencies.

Camacho said the budget department paid the Bureau of Internal Revenue P643 million for value-added tax liabilities related to the issuance of government securities and another P911 million for payments covering liabilities of a light railway firm contractor with receivables from the transport department.

The BIR delivered P38.44 billion to state coffers last month against a target of P37.98 billion, effectively offsetting the P863-million shortfall of the Bureau of Customs, which raised only P7.86 billion last month.

Total revenues of P51.124 billion in August were slightly short of the government's P51.455-billion goal, bringing the eight-month collection to P408.357 billion against expenditures of P520.8 billion.

"We do not want to make life anymore difficult than it is by trying to outdo the target. The important thing for the government is to meet the P202-billion (deficit) ceiling to help build investor confidence," the finance chief said.

Last year, investors were shaken when the Philippines' deficit reached P210.7 billion against a target of P130 billion.

Camacho said the spending blowout in August was expected due to the need to settle contractual obligations. The payments to contractors, he noted, would help prime the economy especially in the countryside.

INDICATORS

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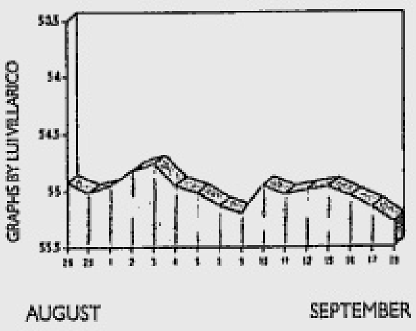

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₱55.28 = $1

As of 5 p.m., Sept. 18, 2003

¥115.81 = $1

As of 5 p.m., Sept. 18, 2003

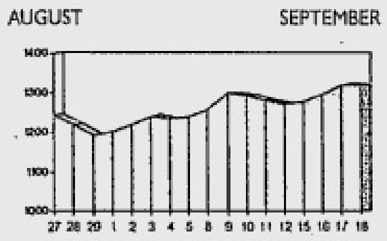
GOLD: $376.50-377.00

per ounce Hong Kong, Sept. 18, 2003

STOCK MARKET

Stocks down 0.07%

PSE COMPOSITE INDEX



(See stock market report on Page B6)

SHARE prices closed 0.07 percent lower yesterday, with a weaker Wall Street overnight prompting investors to consolidate recent sharp gains, dealers said.

They said the positive momentum remains intact and barring any untoward events, the market should be able to resume its advance in due course.

The Philippine Stock Exchange composite index slipped 0.89 points to 1,319.72 after trading between 1,316.60 and 1,326.47.

Gainers led losers 29 to 21, with 49 stocks unchanged.

Volume was 656.7 million shares worth P1.244 billion after 580.43 million shares worth P711.25 million on Wednesday.

The all-share index was down 0.23 points at 809.13 while the commercial-industrial index fell 0.56 to 1,921.31 as property slipped 2.65 to 590.12.

Mining was up 3.50 at 1,237.24 but the oil sector was down 0.03 at 1.35.

Banking and financial services gained 0.84 to 442.61.

"After breaching the 1,308 level yesterday, the market needs a break. It has to consolidate for the meantime but support is strong at the 1,300 level," said Gomer Tan of Regina Capital Development Corp.

"If no untoward events happen to undermine investor sentiment, we can expect a continuation of the rally after the consolidation period," he said.

Nestor Aguila of DA Market Securities said investors are upbeat on the earnings potential of companies given the economic outlook is looking favorable. AFP

Yuchengco, Sy in race to hike shareholdings in Chinabank

YUCHENGCO

SY

TAIPANS Alfonso Yuchengco of Rizal Commercial Banking Corp. and Henry Sy of Banco de Oro are in a race to control 11th largest lender China Banking Corp.

Eight percent of Chinabank was recently sold to Yuchengco, raising to 18.355 percent the combined equity of the taipan's family in the listed bank.

The ambassador bought the 8-percent stake of International China Banking Corp. in Chinabank and the transaction reportedly strained the relationship of Yuchengco with retail magnate Henry Sy, whose family-owned Banco de Oro already owns 38.4 percent of the bank.

The Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas welcomed the acquisition of Yuchengco.

BSP Governor Rafael Buenaventura said anything that should lead to the consolidation of the banking system was always a positive development.

"It will be up for the Monetary Board's notation," said Buenaventura who had been advocating the banking sector's consolidation since he was appointed central bank governor in July 1999. Fewer but stronger banks are more able to withstand financial shocks and crises.

BSP Deputy Governor Alberto Reyes, head of banking supervision and examination, admitted that Yuchengco had already informed monetary authorities of his additional equity in Chinabank.

Reyes said if the 8-percent stake would be equivalent to one board seat, a simple notation would not be sufficient. A board seat has to have a Monetary Board approval," he said.

YUCHENGCO/ B2

IMF sees RP economy growing by 4% in 2004

WARY of the impact of a lingering global weakness on the Philippines, the International Monetary Fund has kept its economic growth forecast for the country at four percent next year against the government's target of hitting 4.9- to 5.5-percent growth in gross domestic product in 2004.

Among the four economies tagged by the IMF as the Asean-4, the Philippines was the only country where the Fund saw no change in growth while expecting improved economic performances from Indonesia, Malaysia and Thailand.

The IMF's findings were contained in the newly published World Economic Outlook.

Meantime, Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho said he would deliver a speech in the IMF-World Bank Annual Meeting in Dubai next week to convince the two multilateral agencies to focus on development reforms instead of nagging emerging economies on the negative issues at home.

"The IMF and the World Bank, at times, be-

IMF/ B2

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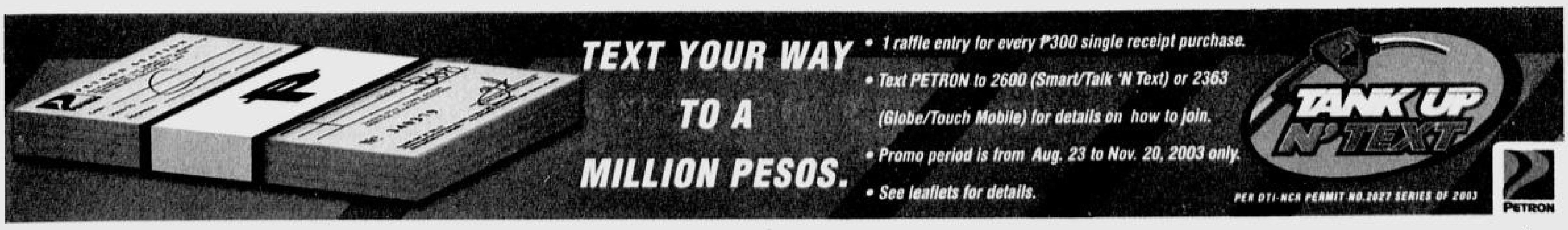

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Energy dep't signs cooperation deal with Indian agency

By Ronnel W. Domingo

THE DEPARTMENT of Energy and PNOC Exploration Corp. signed on Wednesday separate agreements with the Gas Authority of India Ltd. (Gail) on cooperation in the exploration for natural gas and on retailing of the fuel.

The DOE signed a memorandum of understanding with the Indian state firm for the pursuit of programs and projects covering the development of compressed natural gas (CNG) ventures and other downstream use of the fuel.

The DOE-Gail deal would allow scientists and experts of both countries to do joint research as well as information networking in conducting extensive studies about the expansion of the local natural gas industry.

Meantime, the PNOC-EC MOU with Gail would pave the way for cooperation on the retail marketing of natural gas and its use in the transport sector.

Gail, one of India's leading public sector firms, represents 92 percent of the gas market in the South Asian country.

The company operates more than 4,500 kilometers of natural gas delivery and marketing facilities, seven gas processing plants and four gas-based petrochemical plants aside from a 1,250-km pipeline for liquefied petroleum gas.

To date, a total of 14,000 public utility buses in the Indian capital of New Delhi alone are running on CNG. There are a total of 170,000 CNG-fed buses in the entire country.

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Investments of Variable Life Insurance Contracts	Current Week September 16, 2003	Last Week September 09, 2003
Bond Fund - Peso	1.10209	1.09044
ManagedFund - Peso	1.12013	1.11175
Bond Fund - US Dollar	1.00370	1.00140

* Note: These investments of variable life insurance contracts are not mutual funds. Life insurance products are regulated by the Insurance Commission

Going loco over polo

Victor C. Agustin

AT the rate he is spending the family bank's money, Banco Filipino vice chair Albert "Bobby" Aguirre has magnanimously expanded the meaning of private banking.

According to a new audit by the Bangko Sentral-installed comptroller, Aguirre and his select group of bank officers spent more than P567 million in two years for overseas travel and polo matches in the United Kingdom, Australia and Europe.

Aguirre owns polo fields and maintains "top-quality ponies" in Stedham, a West Sussex village some 50 miles outside London, and in an 8,000-acre (about 3,237.5 hectares) farm in Murrunundi, an outback north of Sydney.

The comptroller's report noted that the overseas spending spree, covering 2001 and 2002, was conducted amid the thrift bank's "declining liquidity and profitability."

The report also noted that Banco Filipino's board and management have been "deficient" in reining in Aguirre's overseas expeditions despite two previous directives from the Bangko Sentral's Monetary Board itself.

The new audit also advised Banco Filipino to cut down on the number of its legal consultants, totaling 23 law firms, and PR/marketing/general consultants, another 33 of them. As a corrective measure, the bank said it has already whittled down its consultants down to only 30. In addition, it was negotiating to reduce by half the monthly fees charged by a number of them.

The phalanx of consultants includes:

- the law firm of Sen. Raul Roco (P15,000/month)
- Pimentel (a son of Sen. Aquilino Pimentel Jr.) Yusingco & Garcia (the law firm's contract could not be found by comptroller)
- ex-Chief Justice Andres Narvasa (P68,888/mo)
- Homobono Adaza (P35,000/mo)
- Jose B. Flaminiano (P50,000/mo)
- ex-Comelec Chair Christian Monsod (P60,000/mo)
- Benny Flores (P83,333/mo)
- Manuel Toma Cruz (P88,888/mo)
- GSIS Chair Hermogenes Concepcion (P55,555/mo)
- ex-SEC Chair Perfecto Yasay (P222,222/mo)
- ex-Constabulary chief Ramon Montano (P111,111/mo)
- Gregorio Imperial (P88,888/mo)
- Jovito Hernandez (P323,529/mo)
- Hidelbrando Badiola (P143,720/mo)
- Froilan Miranda (P102,222/mo)
- Father Francis Hubilla (P27,777/mo)

At one point, Banco Filipino was shelling out almost P4.9 million a month to maintain its stable of consultants, including a P1,169,945/month remuneration extended to Aguirre as a "working director and bank representative to various corporate borrowers."

Aguirre has to sit on those boards since about 67.5 percent of Banco Filipino's total loan portfolio—a figure that the thrift bank disputes as overblown—had been classified by the Bangko Sentral as having been extended to the bank's directors, officers and other related interests.

In any case, all the so-called Dosri loans have been fully secured by real estate collaterals, a large chunk of them from the disputed Aguirre family's real estate holdings, according to Banco Filipino.

The bank is heavily exposed to the property market, with its real estate lending now accounting for 79.43 percent of its total loan portfolio.

Heard through the grapevine

WITH Governor Rafael Buenaventura preparing to leave overseas again, the banks' currency traders are apparently preparing to reprise the "when the cat is away...," a high-stakes game that started during the tenure of Governor Gabriel C. Singson.

The Singson-era central bank noted that the peso-dollar exchange rate came under a speculative attack whenever the governor was away.

Buenaventura is set to leave this weekend for Dubai to attend the International Monetary Fund-World Bank joint board meetings, but already the peso began to get wobbly as early as yesterday.

(Cocktales may be reached by e-mail at cocktales_pdi@yahoo.com or at cocktales_pdi@hotmail.com.)

Yuchengco, Sy in race . . .

From page B1

Classified as a universal bank or a lender that could do expanded banking operations, Chinabank's total assets stood at P103.42 billion at the end of the second quarter, down 1.1 percent from the previous quarter but 14 percent higher than the P90.64 billion a year ago.

Banking sources said Sy was offended that ICBC offered and sold the stake to Yuchengco.

ICBC is one of the largest financial groups in Taiwan.

"There could be some tension between the two taipans considering that Banco de Oro would have wanted to increase its stake in China Bank," another banker said.

Had Sy acquired the ICBC stake, it would bring his ownership in ChinaBank to 46.479 percent and fortify his hold as the single biggest stockholder of the lender. *Clarissa S. Batino*

IMF sees RP . . .

From page B1

have like credit-rating agencies instead of the developmental organizations that they are. They have a propensity to focus on the negative that tends to undermine the reform efforts of respective governments," the finance chief said.

A case in point, he said, was the tendency of the IMF and the World Bank to focus on the government's fiscal problems instead of helping come up with solutions. *Clarissa S. Batino*

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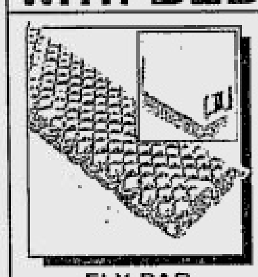

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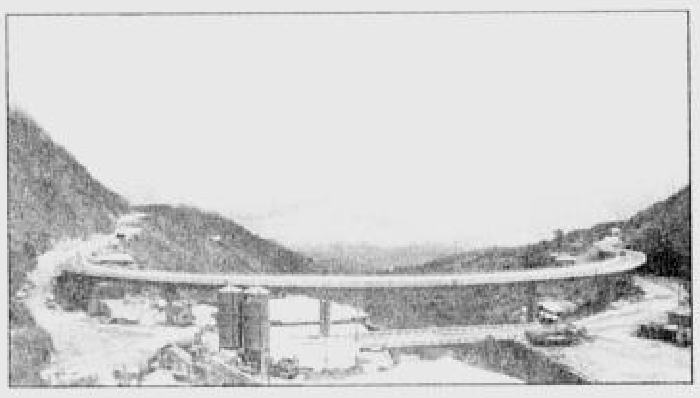

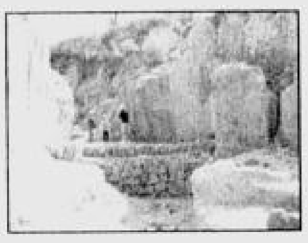

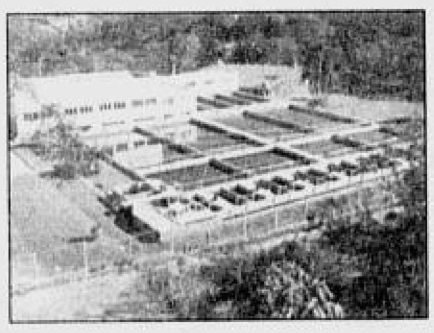

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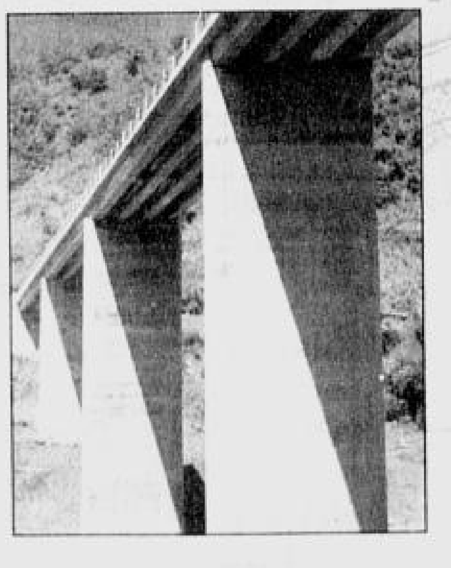

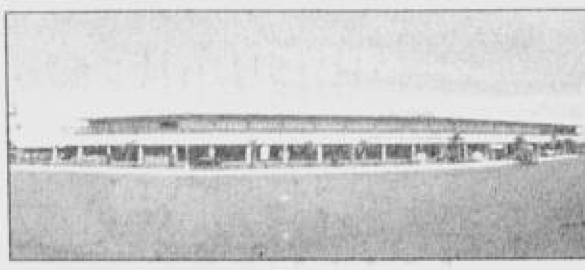

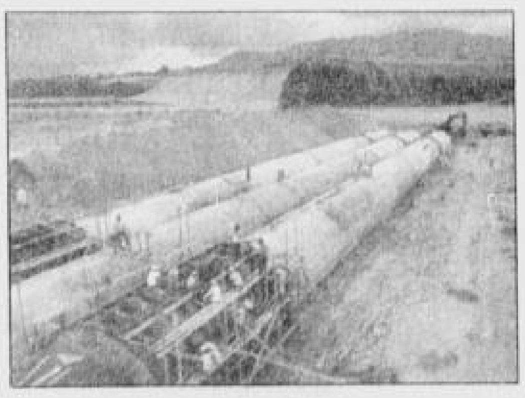

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Gov't eyes more loans for Napocor

By Ronnel W. Domingo

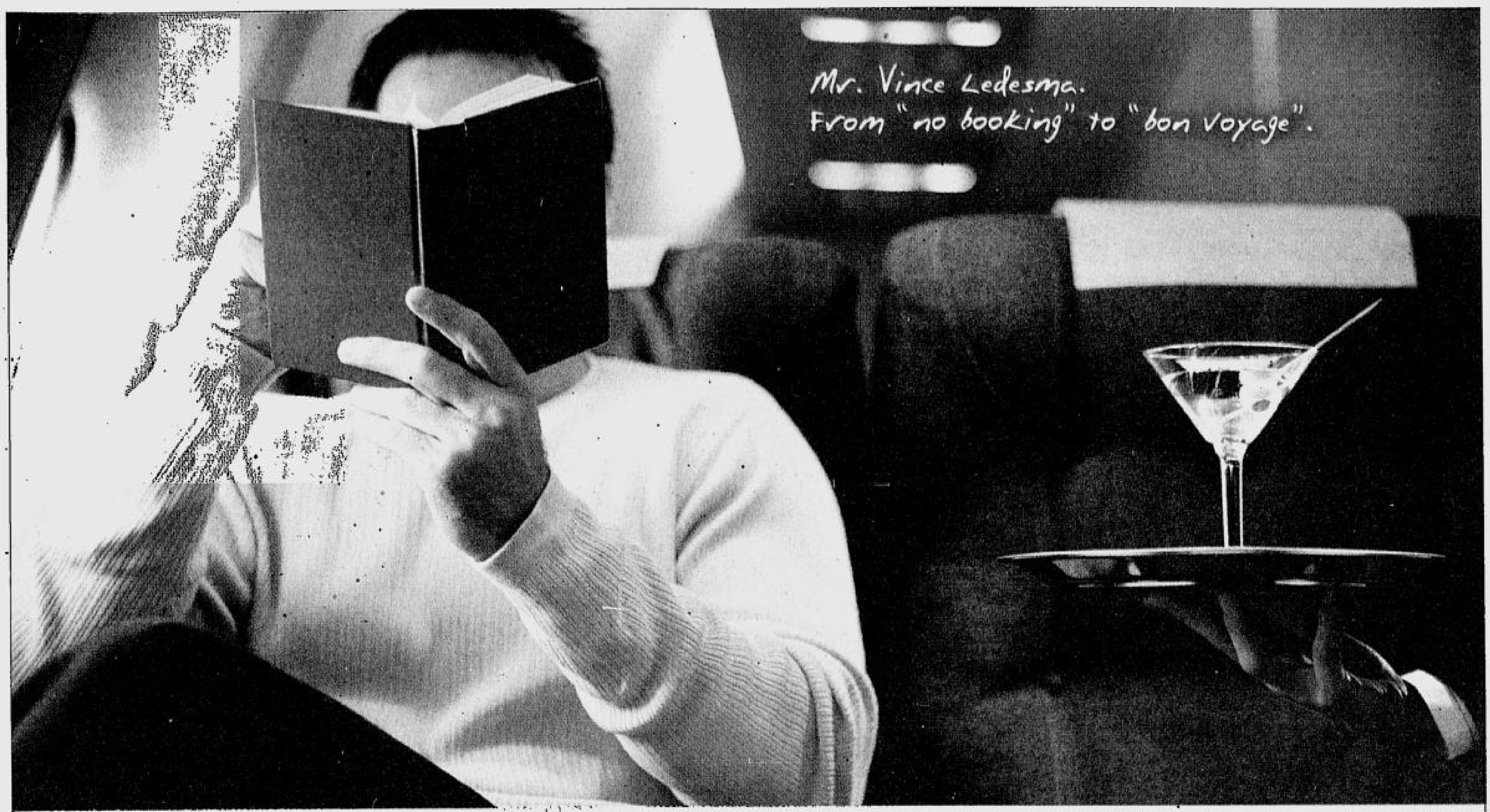
THE GOVERNMENT is looking at additional borrowings for the cash-strapped National Power Corp. even after it has completed a $250-million bond offering, the pricing for which was scheduled last night, a finance official said yesterday.

On the sidelines of the PowerTrends 2003 business forum at the World Trade Center in Manila, Finance Undersecretary Nieves Osorio said the bond offering would cover fully Napocor's funding needs for 2003 if successful.

Government data showed that the power firm needed a total of $1.2 billion in funds for this year.

But Osorio said: "We are still looking at other sources of funding." She did

GOV'T/B5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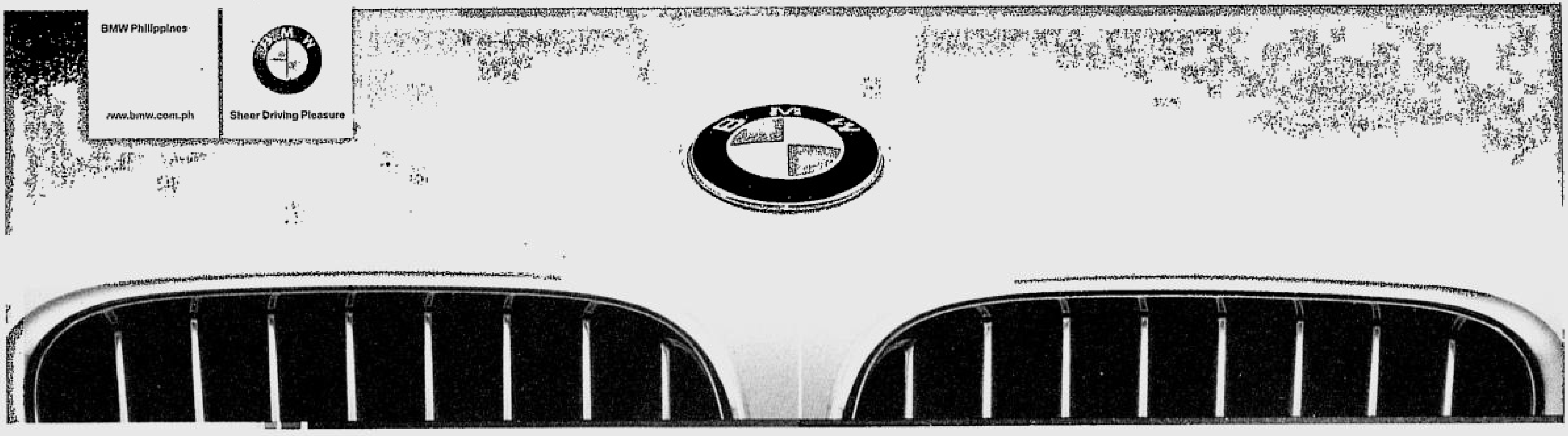

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Dear Friends,

I previously appraised you of the impact of both the exchange rate (Euro/Peso) and the proposed Senate Bill on Excise Tax.

Whilst the Peso decline in value against other major currencies is well documented daily in the press – and a new Automotive Excise Tax Bill has now been signed into law by President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo – it still awaits final implementing guidelines.

Fortunately for us all, the new Bill is favorable for passenger cars. Yes, it will result in new BMW suggested retail prices being re-aligned due to new Automotive Excise Taxes and the effects of the Euro-Peso relationship. But do not expect all models to be substantially reduced.

So, should you wait to buy your new BMW?

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But for all our BMW 316i and 318i models, the answer is a categorical **"NO"**!

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So, there is no need to delay your purchase of these models. Select and buy any 316i or 318i model today, as it is definite that the prices will not be lowered further.

You have my assurance on this. But stock of these models is limited, so act now!

Visit your Authorized BMW Dealer, and become one of the first to own a new BMW in this new excise tax era – even if it has yet to arrive!

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DA chief wants agri fund disbursement system changed

By Christine A. Gaylican

AGRICULTURE Secretary Luis Lorenzo Jr. is seeking modifications in the system of disbursing the Agricultural Competitiveness Enhancement Fund (Acef) to make proceeds from tariffs on agricultural imports readily available to the intended beneficiaries.

Acef aims to provide the needed funds in enhancing the competitiveness of the farm sector, which is adversely affected by trade liberalization.

Lorenzo said changing the system of disbursing Acef was needed to address complaints over the slow disbursement of the fund, which was estimated to have already reached P5 billion.

He noted that the present system did not allow the direct channeling of the tariffs proceeds to the affected sectors. The disbursement of the said fund involves a tedious process and requires a number of approvals.

Requests for funding first go to the National Agricultural and Fisheries Council (NAFC), which was tasked by the Department of Agriculture to handle the fund. If approved by NAFC, the requests are endorsed to the Department of Budget and Management (DBM), which determines the amount to be released in a given year.

Acef ad hoc task force chair Pete Borja has criticized the DBM for the slow release of the Acef funds.

Borja said that while the Bureau of Treasury (BTr) credited as of end-May about P5 billion in Acef funds to special account No. 183, less than P1 billion has so far been released by the DBM.

In the meantime, the Stop the New Round Coalition, a group of non-government organizations, has called for transparency in the setting of tariffs on sensitive agricultural products.

Earlier, the Congressional Oversight Committee on Agricultural and Fisheries Modernization (COCOFM) was moving to create a special fund that will replace Acef.

RP seeks more bilateral trade deals

By Michelle V. Remo

BILATERAL trade deals are now becoming more attractive for the Philippines after multilateral trade talks collapsed during the Cancun Ministerial Conference of the World Trade Organization (WTO).

According to Trade and Industry Secretary Manuel Roxas II, engaging in free trade agreements (FTAs) with another country or in regional trade agreements are now becoming more preferable.

"The fewer the countries involved in trade negotiations, the more probable the deals would benefit both or all countries involved," Roxas said.

"We are more open to FTAs than multilateral negotiations under the WTO because in an FTA, both countries agree on what they can both absorb (in terms of free trade policies). In the WTO, there may be some things (that can be pushed through) which you don't necessarily agree with," he said in a briefing with reporters.

Collapse of WTO negotiations seen as victory for farm sector

By Ernesto M. Ordoñez

COMMENTARY

"WE congratulate our government for somehow listening to the concerns of our small farmers", Riza Bernabe of the Philippine Peasant Institute was quoted as saying after the collapse of the World Trade Organization negotiations in Cancun, Mexico. Agriculture Secretary Luis Lorenzo Jr. and Assistant Secretary Segfredo Serrano should indeed be commended for supporting prior farmer leader suggestions and standing firm with 19 other nations in rejecting the proposed Sept. 13 Cancun draft.

Objectionable provisions

In the agriculture section of this draft, four areas stand out as very detrimental to our farmers. They were also in the Aug. 24 draft. Several developing countries recommended changes to this document, but they were largely ignored in the Sept. 13 draft.

The contentious areas were the following:

1. For product subsidies given by developed countries, hardly any change was made to the Aug. 24 draft. In the proposal, developed countries will still be able to retain their subsidies and even raise them. There is a provision that will give them the opportunity to increase their overall domestic support by switching from one kind of subsidy to another kind.

2. For market access to developed countries, they will be able to keep many of their tariff peaks, which block developing country products from entering their shores. This is done by placing their high tariff items in a category for lower tariff cuts. They also have two escape clauses: they can either cap the tariff at a maximum rate or provide extra market access in other areas, and they are given additional flexibility for agricultural items identified as having non-trade concerns.

3. Market access of developed countries' products to developing nations becomes easier by subjecting developing nations to even more disciplines and tariff reductions. This is very unfair since many developing countries are already suffering from significant increases of agricultural imports, many of which are artificially cheapened by subsidies from the developed countries. The only tool, which the developing countries have against this unfair competition, is tariffs. However, the tariff reduction specified in the draft is more severe than the past.

There is even a Swiss formula adopted, where the higher the tariff, the steeper the cut. Since many developing countries have high agricultural tariffs, they will be subjected to steeper cuts. Since they also have little or no capacity to provide subsidies, their inability to protect their farmers from subsidized imports through tariffs will mean more unemployment, less livelihood opportunities and worsening poverty. In a previous draft, there was flexibility for developing countries whether or not to have the Swiss formula applied to them. In the Sept. 13 document, even this flexibility was removed.

4. In a previous agreement made at Doha, it was clear that developing nations should be treated fairly through "Special and Differential (S and D) Treatment" provisions. Developing countries wanted to convert this rhetoric into reality by suggesting that the draft identify an organizational unit to deal with S and D issues (i.e., the Committee on Trade and Development); a deadline for specific proposals to be reported to the General Council (i.e., March 2004), and the discussion and possible resolution of outstanding issues. All these proposals were ignored in the Sept. 13 draft.

Analysis

The above items are only four of many other provisions that highlight the unfairness of the Sept. 13 document. It is noteworthy that we banded with 19 other developing nations to oppose this. As Assistant Secretary Serrano said, "Developing countries have realized their hidden strength, and resolve they have what it takes to be on equal footing with the United States and the European Union as long as we stick together."

One position for us to take is to promote a level playing field. But instead of limiting this to tariff leveling which is the ploy of some developed nations, the correct approach is the one first expressed by Assistant Secretary Serrano and former Agriculture Secretary Leonardo Montemayor at the WTO Doha conference last year. When negotiating tariffs, we should look at the total protection of a product, which is not just tariffs but also subsidies.

We will find out that very often, the total protection of a subsidized product from a developed country far exceeds that given to a developing country's product, even if the latter has a much higher tariff rate. There is therefore no moral justification to force many of our tariff rates down. Given this perspective, we must renegotiate some of our tariff commitments and freeze all agricultural tariffs next year, with only a few well justified exceptions. This is especially important because our farmers never got the safety nets and budget allocation legally mandated by the Agriculture and Fisheries Modernization Act (Afma). So far, this has not been done, despite the continuing demand by groups like the Alyansa Agrikultura, a coalition of more than one million small farmers and fisherfolk.

Conclusion.

The WTO should not be held captive by a few developed nations who can cause increased poverty and hardship for our farmers. We have every right to make it what it should be: an international trade body for the benefit of all. What our officials did at the Cancun conference in responding to the concerns of our small farmers and uniting with other developing nations is a significant step toward that goal. Viewed in this light, the collapse of the negotiations may be the best thing that could have happened to WTO.

(The author is chair of Agriwatch, a private sector initiative, former Undersecretary of the DA and the DTI and Chair/Secretary, Presidential Flagship Programs and Project. For inquiries or suggestions, e-mail agriwatch-phil@yahoo.com or telefax 02-8516635)

When is sex bad for the heart?

ANSWERS THAT MATTER

Antonio Sibulo, Jr., MD, FPCC, FACC

Antonio S. Sibulo, Jr., MD is currently the Administrative Director of St. Luke's Heart Institute, an Examiner at the Philippine Specialty Board of Adult Cardiology, and the Editor-in-Chief of the Philippine Journal of Cardiology. He is a past President of the Philippine Heart Association and the ASEAN Federation of Cardiology. He has authored and co-authored more than 40 publications locally and internationally.

AS A CARDIOLOGIST, I've seen men who suffer from cardiovascular diseases torn between health concerns and the desire to be intimate again with their spouse. Here are some of the common concerns and questions raised by my patients.

Does my cardiovascular condition put me at risk for ED?

Yes, hypertension and other cardiovascular diseases place men at high risk for developing erectile dysfunction. In fact, it has been found that 39% to 64% of men with cardiovascular conditions suffer from ED. There are 3 common causes. First, it may be due to organic reasons. This means that there is a problem with the blood flow to the sexual organs, which happens as the disease progresses. Second, it may be the side effect of a medication that a patient is taking to treat the disease. Lastly, it could also result from the fear of dying or experiencing a heart attack while having sex.

Is it safe for me to have sex even if I have hypertension?

As long as your blood pressure is well controlled, yes. There is no reason for you to stop enjoying the intimacy of sex with your partner. Sex is not bad for the heart. It is no more stressful to the heart than climbing two flights of stairs or brisk walking for 10 minutes—if you can do any of these without discomfort or pain, you don't have to say goodbye to sex. Go to your doctor for a full assessment and to know what physical activities are safe for you to do.

I suffered a heart attack two months ago. Is it ok for me and my wife to have sex again?

Most men who have recovered from a heart attack are afraid of suffering once again—and even worse, suffering an attack during intimate moments with his wife. In most cases, yes it is safe for men to have sex again. After a patient has undergone rehabilitation and no longer feels any symptoms, I will encourage him to engage in normal activities, including having sex with his wife. I would say 3-8 weeks after a heart attack is a good waiting period. Only 22% of men who have had a heart attack develop ED. But it's treatable and your doctor will be open to discuss treatment options with you.

Is there an ED medication that can be safely taken by people like me?

Yes. ED can be safely treated, even in men with cardiovascular diseases. In fact, recent advancements have led to the development of a new oral drug that is safe and more convenient. It can be taken with food and alcohol, allowing couples to wine and dine. Just one dose is effective for 24 to 36 hours, letting the couple be intimate without feeling anxious and pressed for time, and even allowing them to enjoy a romantic weekend out of town. And for patients taking drugs for hypertension, this medication can be safely and conveniently taken without dosage adjustments. Some precaution though: all oral medications for ED are contraindicated in men taking nitrates. It is best to consult your doctor about the treatment option that best suits your needs.

For more questions about erectile dysfunction and the treatment options available, call the Cialis Helpline at (02) 636-9678 or 1-800-1-888-2436 or send an e-mail to cialishelpline@lilly.com. All information you provide will remain confidential.

ADVT.

"I stopped touching her."

I didn't want to be in that situation again.

IT'S NOT that I didn't want to make *love*... I just could *not*... and I avoided showing affection, fearing things might lead *somewhere*... UNTIL I learned I had a medical condition called ERECTILE DYSFUNCTION. It affects 87 million men in Asia, but it's very treatable. My doctor prescribed a treatment for me, and since then, *romance is back in our marriage.*

KNOW MORE about it

Now there's a new treatment for ERECTILE DYSFUNCTION. If you think this can help you or your spouse, don't hesitate to consult a doctor. To know more about ERECTILE DYSFUNCTION and this new treatment, you can call the CIALIS HELPLINE at (02) 636-9678 or 1-800-1-888-2436, send an e-mail to cialishelpline@lilly.com, or visit www.cialis.com.ph.

Gov't . . .

From page B3

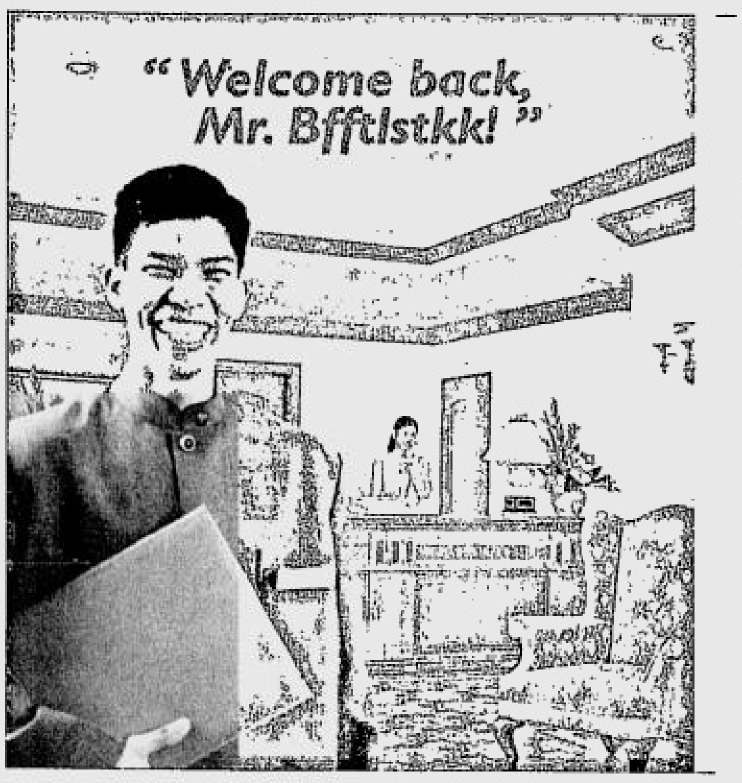
not give further details.

Napocor was able to raise on its own $250 million in a private placement with Goldman Sachs in February.

However, it was forced to cancel a $500-million bond float in June due to a weak investor demand. But in July, the national government raised $750 million for the power firm.

The latest bond issue is guaranteed by the US Overseas Private Investment Corp. (Opic).

Osorio said the DOF was also inclined to push for an amendment to the provision of the Power Industry Reform Act that prohibited Napocor from entering into contracts with IPPs.


"Welcome back, Mr. Bfftlstkk!"

Some of our guests' names are a bit difficult to remember.

Like Mr. Szpiekziev, or Mr. Duorunganakipana. Regardless, our people make it a point to remember. It's the normal thing to do. Else, how could we truly make Mrs. Dzapzinkowschak at home? Besides, it also makes it easy for us to introduce her to Mr. Go.

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318i Limousine	2002	Orient Blue	12,000 kms	1,735,000
318i Limousine	2002	Black Sapphire	6,000 kms	1,770,000
318i Limousine	2003	Steel Gray	9,000 kms	1,795,000
318i Limousine	2003	Titanium Silver	8,000 kms	1,795,000
318i Limousine	2003	Steel Gray	5,000 kms	1,820,000
318i Limousine	2003	Titanium Silver	3,000 kms	1,890,000
318i Executive	2003	Titanium Silver	11,000 kms	1,950,000
325i	2003	Titanium Silver	10,000 kms	2,550,000
325i	2003	Titanium Silver	4,000 kms	2,650,000
525i	2002	Titanium Silver	17,000 kms	2,750,000
525i	2002	Black Sapphire	13,000 kms	2,850,000
24	2003	Black Sapphire	4,000 kms	3,150,000

Other BMW Pre-Owned Cars

Model	Year	Color	Mileage	Price
316i	1997	Boston Green	60,000 kms	685,000
316i	1997	Alpine White	47,000 kms	710,000
318tds	1996	Arktis Silver	52,000 kms	875,000
320i	1998	Arktis Silver	66,000 kms	890,000
316i	1999	Alpine White	24,000 kms	1,150,000
523i	1996	Dunkel Blue	52,000 kms	1,425,000

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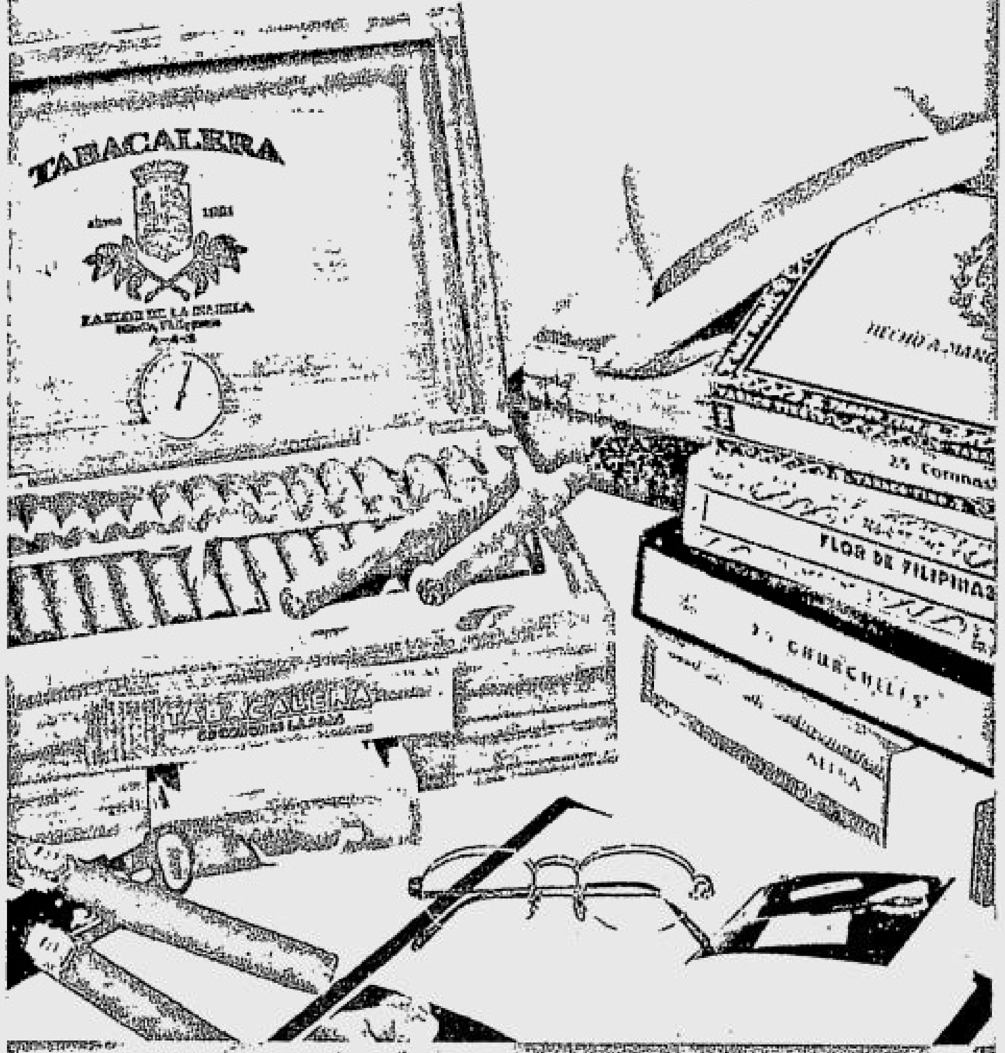

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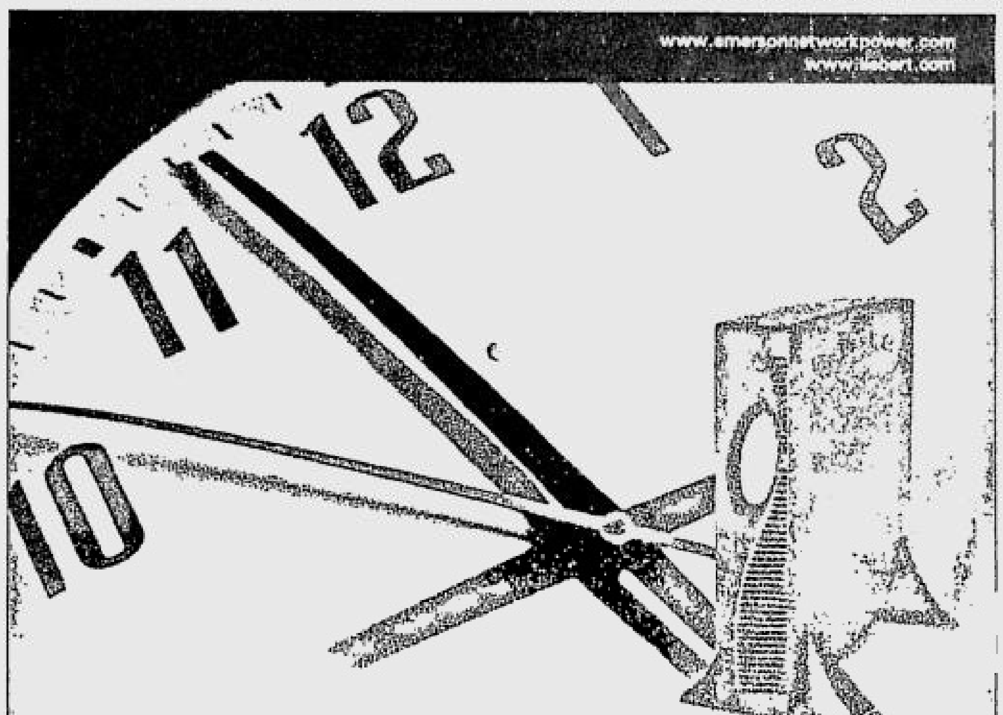

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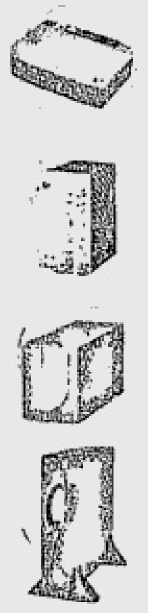

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FROM POWER DEAL CHANGES

Meralco sees ₱44B savings

MANILA Electric Co., the Philippines' largest power distributor, said on Thursday it expected savings of about P44 billion ($800 million) from changes in its power supply contracts with independent power producers (IPPs).

In a disclosure to the Philippine Stock Exchange, Meralco said it had renegotiated its power supply contracts with private firms First Gas Power Corp., FGP Corp. and Quezon Power Philippines Ltd.

It said Meralco and the three firms "had already commenced the drafting of the renegotiated terms and conditions into formal amendments to the power supply contracts." "We are hoping that the amendments to the contracts could be signed and presented to the Energy Regulatory Commission for approval not later than the end of the year," Meralco said.

The news buoyed Meralco shares on Thursday. Its A shares, restricted to Filipinos, leapt five percent or 0.75 centavos to P15.75 and its B -shares, open to foreigners, rose 2.15 percent or 50 centavos to P23.75.

Ivanna de la Peña, head of utility economics of Meralco, said the company buys about 60 percent of its power requirement from state-controlled National Power Corp. and 40 percent from IPPs.

Meralco signed a 25-year supply deal with First Gas, FGP Corp. and Quezon Power in the 1990s.

The utility started talks to revise its IPP contracts last year after Napocor succeeded in lowering its electricity costs by renegotiating contracts with private firms.

The Philippines has some of the highest power prices in Asia largely because of deals struck between the government and power producers in the early 1990s that resulted in hefty pass-through charges to customers as supply outstripped demand following the Asian financial crisis. *Reuters*

Republic of the Philippines
NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY
Quezon City

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The **NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY (NFA)** invites contractors classified by CIAP and registered with the Philippine Contractor's Accreditation Board (PCAB) to apply for eligibility and, if subsequently found eligible, to bid for the hereunder project:

NAME OF PROJECT	:	**Construction of Laboratory, Staffhouse with Canteen - three storey building**
LOCATION		NFA Compound, Visayas Avenue, Quezon City
CONTRACTOR'S CLASSIFICATION	:	Medium "A" minimum
APPROVED BUDGET	:	P11.2 Million

SCHEDULE OF ACTIVITIES

Submission of Letter of Intent	-	September 13 - October 03, 2003
Issuance of Registration/ Eligibility Requirements	-	September 13 - October 03, 2003
Submission of Accomplished Registration/Eligibility Forms	-	September 22 - October 06, 2003
Eligibility Check	-	September 22 - October 06, 2003
Issuance of Bid Documents	-	September 27 - October 07, 2003
Pre-Bidding Conference	-	October 9, 2003; 2:00 PM
Submission and Opening of Bids	-	October 23, 2003; 2:00 PM

Interested contractors shall submit their Eligibility Statements including Price Proposals in the prescribed forms to the Chairman, Bid and Award Committee (BAC), 7th Floor, Matimyas Bldg., National Food Authority, 101 E. Rodriguez Sr. Avenue, Quezon City.

Eligibility forms may be secured and submitted at the NFA-BAC Secretariat upon presentation of Letter of Intent not later than the date stated above and payment of a non-refundable application fee of Php500.00 at National Food Authority, 7th Floor, Matimyas Bldg., 101 E. Rodriguez Sr. Avenue, Quezon City.

Bidding documents and plans shall be issued only to eligible bidders upon payment of a non-refundable fee of P10,000.00 for the Antipolo warehouse project and P8,000.00 for the 3-storey building project at Visayas Avenue, Quezon City.

All particulars relative to Eligibility, Bid Bond, Performance Bond, Pre-Bid Conference, Bid Evaluation and Award of Contract shall be governed by the provisions of existing laws and its Implementing Rules and Regulations and other applicable laws, rules and regulations.

Venue for the Pre-Bidding Conference, Submission and Opening of Bids, shall be at the NFA Boardroom, Matimyas Bldg., 101 E. Rodriguez Sr. Avenue, Quezon City.

The NFA reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids, waive any minor defect therein, and accept the offer most advantageous to the government.

The NFA assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify the bidders, for any expense incurred in the preparation of bid

(Sgd.) **PEDRO S. HERNANDO, JR.**
Deputy Administrator & BAC Chairman

(PDI - Sept 6 & 19, 2003)

Shipping firms seek lifting of limits on foreign ownership

By Michelle V. Remo

THE MARITIME industry wants the government to lift the restrictions on foreign ownership of shipping firms to attract investments.

The Maritime Industry Cluster said in a primer that the Philippine overseas shipping sector considers the scrapping of the 60-40 ownership rule in favor of Filipinos as a vital part of its overall long-term strategy to develop the industry.

The Cluster is the umbrella organization of maritime industry groups.

"We have to benchmark against Singapore and Hong Kong, both of which have no policy limiting foreign ownership and have fully developed shipping sector," said an industry source in an interview.

Data from the primer showed that the Philippines' trade with the rest of the world is mostly carried not by Philippine flag vessels but by foreign-registered ones.

In 2001, while the value of Philippine trade carried by sea reached $29.98 billion, the ones carried by Philippine-registered ships only amounted to $1.36 billion, or a measly 4.5 percent of the total.

Dollar payments remitted to non-Philippine shipping companies for carrying local trade reaches some $1.27 billion per year.

INTEREST RATES

Sept. 18, 2003-
MART1 Rates

Benchmark Interest Rates	MART1 18-Sep-03	MART1 17-Sep-03
1 Month	6.2661	6.275
3 Months	6.2679	6.275
6 Months	6.7633	6.7679
1 Year	8.0116	8.1365
2 Years	9.3867	9.3893
3 Years	9.9383	9.975
4 Years	10.37	10.3464
5 Years	10.625	10.615
7 Years	11.3268	11.3161
10 Years	11.58	11.5875
20 Years	12.025	12.0446
25 Years	12.29	12.3214

SOURCE: MART/BLOOMBERG

Music Corp. to hike capital by $1M

By Abigail L. Ho

CASH-STRAPPED information and communications technology firm Music Corp. is raising $1 million in additional capital as part of its overall corporate restructuring efforts.

Music will tap private placements or issue new shares to raise its required funding. A stronger balance sheet is expected to attract new investors.

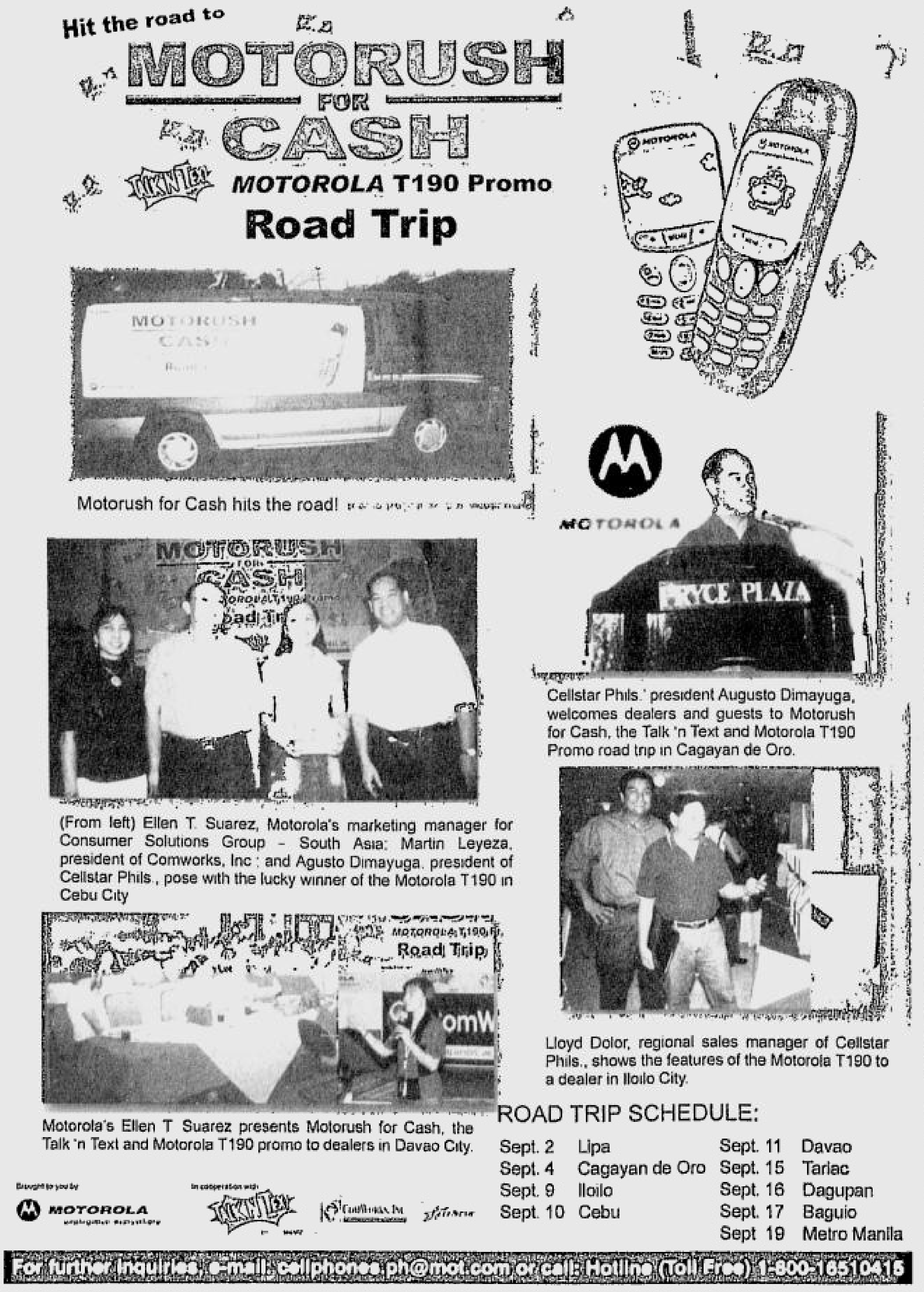
In a disclosure to the Philippine Stock Exchange yesterday, Music legal representative Jimmy Soo said the company would be merged with wholly-owned subsidiary Music Semiconductors Phil. Inc. Music Corp. will be the surviving entity.

The corporation's name would likewise be changed to Music Semiconductors Corp., subject to the approval of the company's stockholders and the Securities and Exchange Commission.

This is in line with the company's change of primary purpose from manufacturing to holding, given the still struggling condition of the semiconductor industry.

Music produces semiconductors used in the telecommunications and information technology industries. It is a pioneer of content admissible memory or CAM, which gives it a niche market that helps it cope with difficulties in the overall semiconductor market.

It owns 90-percent of US-based Music Semiconductors Inc. (MSI), which recently got released from bankruptcy after meeting the requirements of Section 1129b of the US bankruptcy code.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Road Trip

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(From left) Ellen T. Suarez, Motorola's marketing manager for Consumer Solutions Group - South Asia; Martin Leyeza, president of Comworks, Inc.; and Agusto Dimayuga, president of Cellstar Phils., pose with the lucky winner of the Motorola T190 in Cebu City

Motorola's Ellen T Suarez presents Motorush for Cash, the Talk 'n Text and Motorola T190 promo to dealers in Davao City.

Cellstar Phils.' president Augusto Dimayuga, welcomes dealers and guests to Motorush for Cash, the Talk 'n Text and Motorola T190 Promo road trip in Cagayan de Oro.

Lloyd Dolor, regional sales manager of Cellstar Phils., shows the features of the Motorola T190 to a dealer in Iloilo City.

ROAD TRIP SCHEDULE:

Sept. 2	Lipa	Sept. 11	Davao
Sept. 4	Cagayan de Oro	Sept. 15	Tarlac
Sept. 9	Iloilo	Sept. 16	Dagupan
Sept. 10	Cebu	Sept. 17	Baguio
		Sept 19	Metro Manila

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PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of Sept. 18, 2003)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Banco de Oro Univ. Bank	17.5	17.5	17.5	17.5	323,100
Bank of the Phil. Islands	43.5	44	43	43.5	915,700
China Banking Corp.	660	660	660	660	300
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	34.5	34.5	34	34.5	304,500
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	30.5	30.5	29.5	30	86,800
Philippine National Bank	26	26	25.5	25.5	77,300
Phil. Savings Bank	27	27	27	27	5,000
Rizal Comm. Banking Corp.	13	13	13	13	2,000
Security Bank Corp.	19.25	19.25	19.25	19.25	136,100
Union Bank of the Phil.	28	28	28	28	20,600
FINANCIAL SERVICES					
Manulife Financial Corp.	1680	1680	1680	1680	50
Sun Life Financial Inc.	1205	1205	1205	1205	1,260
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	25	25	25	25	3,600
Digital Telecom Phils Inc.	0.7	0.7	0.69	0.69	4,290,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	695	695	690	690	2,990
Island Info and Tech Inc.	0.048	0.048	0.048	0.048	2,000,000
ISM Communications Corp.	0.047	0.048	0.047	0.048	3,000,000
Pilipino Tel. Corp.	0.63	0.66	0.63	0.65	20,060,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	665	670	665	665	201,770
Ivantage Corp.	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	270,000
Philweb Corp.	0.012	0.013	0.012	0.013	900,000
POWER & ENERGY					
Manila Electric Co. A	15.25	15.75	15	15.75	1,289,400
Manila Electric Co. B	23.25	23.75	23.25	23.75	2,140,000
Petron Corp.	2.04	2.06	2.04	2.06	4,718,000
Trans-Asia Oil And Energy	0.95	0.95	0.95	0.95	40,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Asian Terminals Inc.	1.4	1.4	1.4	1.4	25,000
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	2.85	2.9	2.8	2.85	1,008,000
Keppel Phils. Marine Inc.	0.28	0.28	0.26	0.26	340,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Republic Cement Corp.	0.55	0.55	0.55	0.55	100,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Alaska Milk Corp.	3.1	3.1	3.1	3.1	200,000
Ginebra San Miguel Inc.	31	31	30.5	30.5	35,900
Jollibee Foods Corp.	18.25	18.5	18.25	18.5	430,100
Swift Food Inc.	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	50,000
San Miguel Corp. A	54	54.5	54	54	164,300
San Miguel Corp. B	62.5	63	62.5	63	230,900
Vitarich Corp.	0.26	0.26	0.26	0.26	100,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Abacus Con Res & Hdg A	0.38	0.39	0.38	0.39	130,000
Ayala Corp.	4.9	5.1	4.9	5	28,469,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	2.95	2.95	2.9	2.9	112,000
Ajo.Net Holdings Inc.	0.032	0.032	0.032	0.032	1,000,000
A. Soriano Corp.	0.81	0.81	0.81	0.81	80,000
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	0.0075	0.0075	0.0075	0.0075	20,000,000
ATN Holdings Inc.	1.78	1.78	1.78	1.78	10,000
Balabac Resources & Hldgs	0.13	0.14	0.13	0.135	270,000
Benpres Holdings Corp	0.62	0.63	0.61	0.61	22,640,000
Crown Equities Inc.	0.145	0.15	0.145	0.15	270,000
Southeast Asian Cement	0.09	0.09	0.09	0.09	200,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	0.27	0.27	0.26	0.26	1,400,000
Ever-Gotesco Resources	0.023	0.023	0.023	0.023	1,000,000
Filinvest Dev. Corp.	1.02	1.02	1.02	1.02	232,000
First Phil Hldgs Corp.	18.75	19	18.5	18.5	1,090,400
Global Equities Inc.	0.11	0.11	0.11	0.11	300,000
House Of Investments Inc.	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	2,050,000
Ionics Inc.	1.5	1.5	1.44	1.44	590,000
Macroasia Corp.	0.87	0.87	0.87	0.87	10,000
Megaworld Corp.	0.98	1	0.97	0.99	7,310,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.28	0.28	0.27	0.28	9,060,000
Music Corp.	0.41	0.41	0.4	0.4	1,340,000
Prime Orion Phils. Inc.	0.26	0.27	0.26	0.26	2,770,000
Roxas Holdings Inc.	1.02	1.02	1.02	1.02	1,290,000
Uniwide Holdings Inc.	0.115	0.115	0.11	0.115	300,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Matsushita Elec Phil Corp	7.2	7.2	7.2	7.2	1,340,000
Picop Resources Inc.	0.085	0.085	0.085	0.085	600,000
SPI Technologies Inc.	13.25	13.5	13.25	13.5	2,600
Steniel Manufacturing	0.15	0.15	0.15	0.15	70,000
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICES					
Belle Corp.	0.55	0.56	0.55	0.56	680,000
Fairmont Holdings Inc.	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	10,000
Leisure & Resorts Corp.	0.45	0.5	0.45	0.5	100,000
Mondragon Intl Phils Inc.	0.16	0.18	0.16	0.18	510,000
Premiere Ent. Prod. Inc	0.33	0.34	0.33	0.34	550,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp. (Pdr)	25.5	25.5	25.5	25.5	115,800
PLDT (10% Pref.) Series U	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	300
PLDT (10% Pref) Series W	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	1,100
PLDT (10% Pref) Series Z	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	700
PLDT 10% Pref Series Aa	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	1,000
Philweb Corp. - Warrants	0.0012	0.0014	0.0012	0.0014	23,000,000
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	6.7	6.8	6.7	6.7	5,191,000
C & P Homes Inc	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	200,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.18	0.185	0.18	0.185	2,990,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.24	0.25	0.24	0.245	4,520,000
Filinvest Land Inc	1.08	1.08	1.08	1.08	5,591,000
Kuok Phil. Properties	0.205	0.215	0.205	0.215	1,740,000
Fil-Estate Land Inc.	0.19	0.19	0.19	0.19	10,000
Primex Corp.	2.5	2.5	2.5	2.5	10,000
SM Development Corp.	1.06	1.06	1.06	1.06	135,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc	6.3	6.3	6.2	6.3	104,407,000
MINING					
Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. A	0.19	0.19	0.19	0.19	110,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co B	0.205	0.205	0.205	0.205	200,000
Manila Mining Corp. A	0.0042	0.0048	0.0042	0.0048	129,000,000
Manila Mining Corp. B	0.0042	0.005	0.0042	0.005	202,000,000
Omico Corp.	0.0032	0.0032	0.0032	0.0032	3,000,000
OIL					
Interport Res.	0.0034	0.0034	0.0034	0.0034	5,000,000
Interport Res. B	0.0034	0.0034	0.0034	0.0034	7,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.0032	0.0032	0.0032	0.0032	1,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. B	0.0032	0.0032	0.0032	0.0032	5,000,000
The Philodrill Corp. A	0.18	0.18	0.18	0.18	30,000
Paofica	0.0095	0.0095	0.0095	0.0095	5,000,000
Vulcan Ind'l	0.14	0.14	0.14	0.14	100,000

DISCLOSURES

EASYCALL Communications Philippines Inc. moved its annual stockholders' meeting from Oct. 8 to Nov. 12. Stockholders of record as of Oct. 15 will be entitled to vote at the meeting.

* * *

ARANETA Properties Inc. will hold its annual stockholders' meeting on Oct. 24, 10 a.m. at the Turf Room of Manila Polo Club, Makati City. Stockholders of record as of Sept. 30 will be entitled to notice of and to vote at the meeting.

* * *

MANILA Jockey Club Inc. moved its special stockholders' meeting from Oct. 10 to Nov. 25.

* * *

MUSIC Corp. will hold its annual stockholders' meeting on Dec. 5, 2 p.m. at the Renaissance Room of New World Hotel. Stockholders of record as of Oct. 1 will be entitled to notice of and to vote at the meeting. The company will change its name to Music Semiconductors Corp. and its primary purpose from that of "holding" to "manufacturing." Also, the company plans to raise $1 million in additional capital. Andrew Alcid was appointed additional member of the audit committee.

* * *

PHILEX Mining Corp. reported that its shipments of copper, gold bullion and silver for August reached a gross value of P290.15 million.

* * *

SOUTH China Resources Inc. will hold its annual stockholders' meeting on Oct. 22, 10 a.m. at the William McKinley Room of Manila Polo Club, Makati City. Stockholders of record as of Oct. 2 will be entitled to notice of and to vote at the meeting. ***Compiled by Maricar D. Tolosa, PDI Research***

CURRENCIES

September 18, 2003 Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Dollar Equivalent	Peso Equivalent
United States	Dollar	0.885897	1.000000	55.049000
Japan	Yen	0.007635	0.008618	0.474400
United Kingdom	Pound	1.425762	1.609400	88.595900
Hongkong	Dollar	0.113588	0.128218	7.058300
Switzerland	Franc	0.642419	0.725163	39.919500
Canada	Dollar	0.648866	0.732440	40.320100
Singapore	Dollar	0.505274	0.570353	31.397400
Australia	Dollar	0.587426	0.663086	36.502200
Bahrain	Dinar*	2.349920	2.652590	146.022400
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.236239	0.266667	14.679800
Brunei	Dollar	0.503837	0.568731	31.308100
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000105	0.000118	0.006500
Thailand	Baht	0.021809	0.024618	1.355200
UAE	Dirham	0.241218	0.272287	14.989100
Euro	Euro	1.000000	1.128800	62.139300
ArgentinaPeso	0.305482	0.344828	18.982400	
Brazil	REAL	0.303181	0.342231	18.839500
Denmark	Kroner	0.134645	0.151987	8.366700
India	Rupee	0.019321	0.021810	1.200600
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.233162	0.263193	14.488500
Mexico	New Peso	0.081185	0.091642	5.044800
New Zealand	Dollar	0.514249	0.580484	31.955100
Norway	Kroner	0.122144	0.137876	7.589900
Pakistan	Rupee	0.015407	0.017391	0.957400
South Africa	Rand	0.119959	0.135410	7.454200
Korea	Won	0.000757	0.000855	0.047100
Sweden	Kroner	0.110723	0.124984	6.880200
Syria	Pound	0.021093	0.023810	1.310700
Taiwan	Nt Dollar	0.026048	0.029403	1.618600
Venezuela	Bolivar	0.000555	0.000627	0.034500

DOE readies spot market launch

By Ronnel W. Domingo

THE DEPARTMENT of Energy said it was filling up slots for three independent directors of the power spot market called Philippine Electricity Market Corp., papers for the incorporation of which was filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission last Wednesday.

Under the rules of the wholesale electricity spot market, the four directors—one of which would be the board chair—should not be involved in the power industry and the government.

Energy Undersecretary Cyril del Callar said, however, that the launch of the demonstration spot market was moved to December instead of September.

Del Callar said the DOE hoped to secure the Asian Development Bank's approval on the procurement of the software platform and the necessary hardware for the WESM within the month.

The DOE had finished evaluation of bids for the contract for the provision of the software and infrastructure, which were submitted on June 30.

Five companies bid for the contract: Logica of the United Kingdom, Siemens of Germany, Alstom of France, ABB of Sweden and Mitsubishi of Japan.

In the meantime, the DOE is still evaluating the bids for the consultancy on operating the market.

Five other companies submitted bids for the second contract: M-Co of New Zealand, APW of Australia, Online of the United Kingdom, and Kema and Etri—both of the United States.

Del Callar had said the demonstration would last for several months in time for the planned launch of the market proper in mid-2004.

Energy Secretary Vincent Perez Jr. told the PowerTrends 2003 business forum on Wednesday that the Philippines was the third country in Asia after Singapore and South Korea to adopt a power spot market.

PLDT Global to tap Filipino market in US

By Abigail L. Ho

DOMINANT carrier Philippine Long Distance Co. sees another strong revenue driver, possibly next to wireless subsidiary Smart Communications Inc., in a new online portal that aims to tap US-based Filipinos.

PLDT Global Online, a wholly-owned subsidiary of PLDT UK Ltd., expects to corner at least 10 percent of the annual income of around 3.5 million Filipinos residing in the US through the sale of phone cards, telephone subscriptions and even food and retail items through the Internet.

"It's a billion-dollar market opportunity. It could possibly be bigger than (PLDT's landline business), and it could be the second largest revenue driver. But I don't really want to make revenue projections as we just launched," PLDT Global chief technology officer Steve Thomas told reporters yesterday.

The new online portal, pldtonline.com, will allow Filipinos residing in the US to make remittances to, buy food for and even load credits into the prepaid mobile phone accounts of their loved ones and friends here.

While generating revenues through charges for gift certificate orders and remittances, PLDT Global general manager Tarny Perkins said pldtonline.com could also increase PLDT's landline revenues through additional subscriptions.

Right now, PLDT Global has partnerships with Jollibee Foods Corp., ABS-CBN Global Ltd., Union Bank of the Philippines, Viva Entertainment Inc., Enchanted Kingdom, local portal Yehey and PLDT subsidiaries Smart and ePLDT.

With these partnerships, US-based Filipinos can buy goods and services from these firms through pldtonline.com.

And with an estimated 3.5 million US-based Filipinos, around 1.7 million of whom had Internet connection, Perkins said the opportunity to generate revenues from them while offering them various services was big but virtually untapped.

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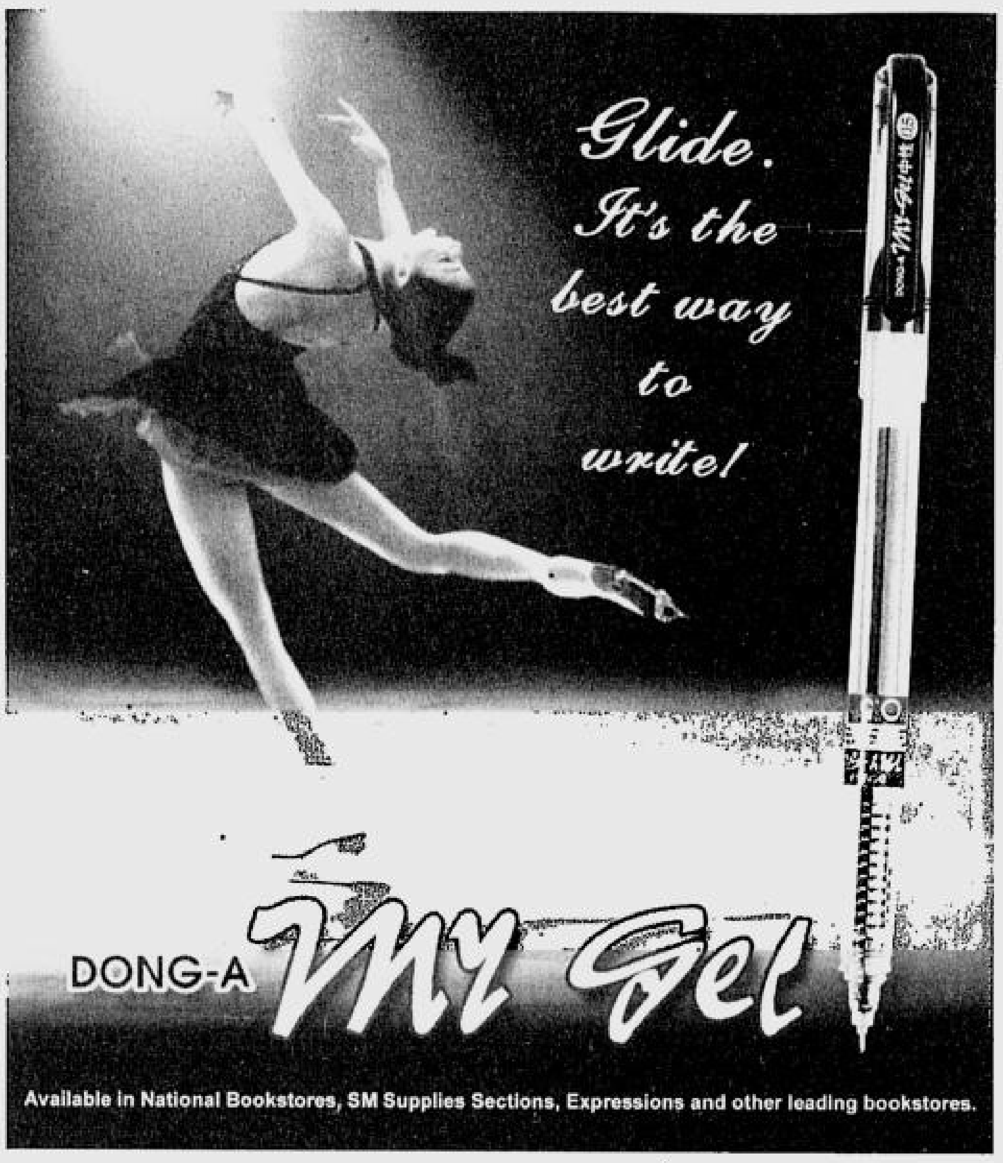

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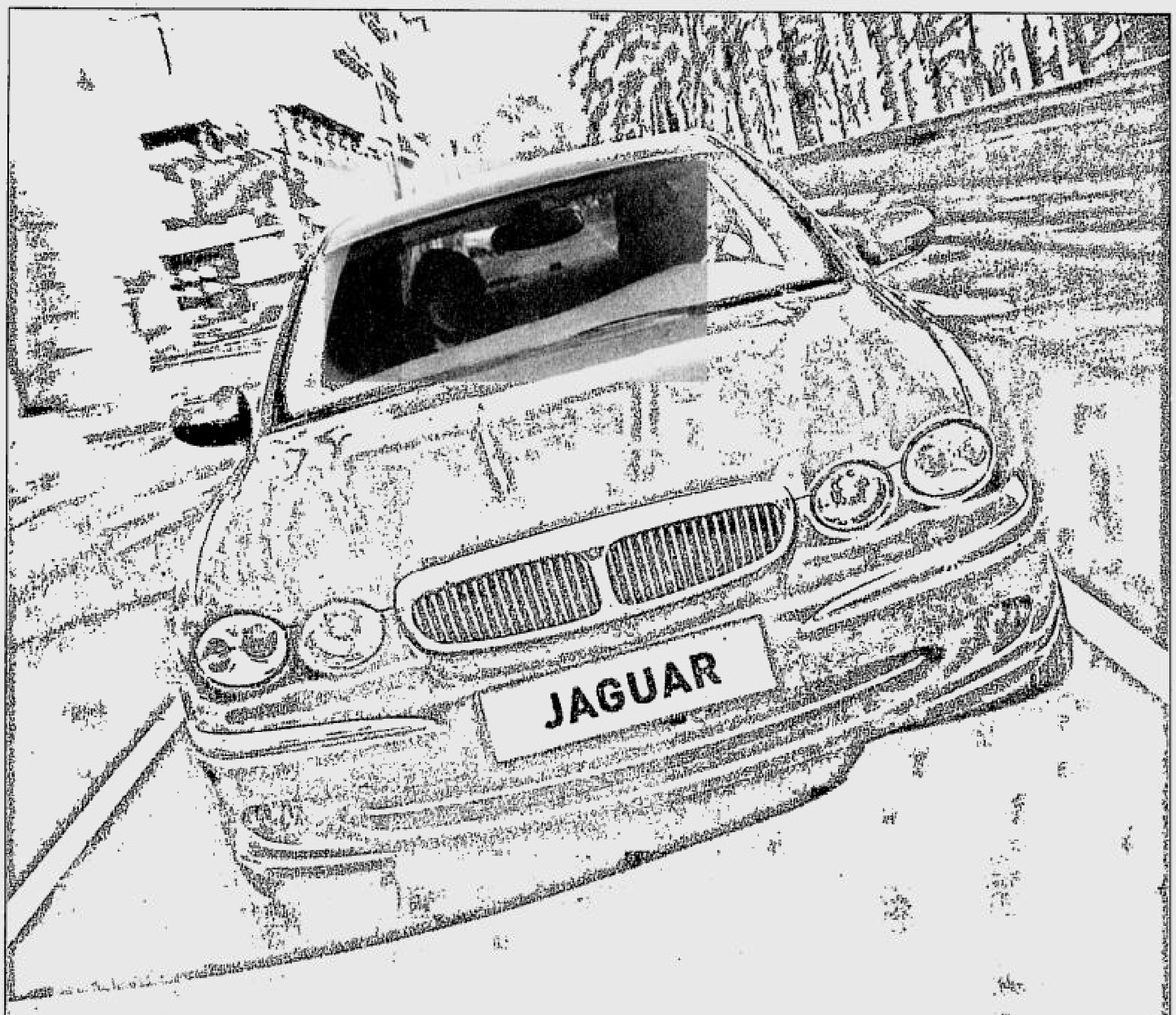

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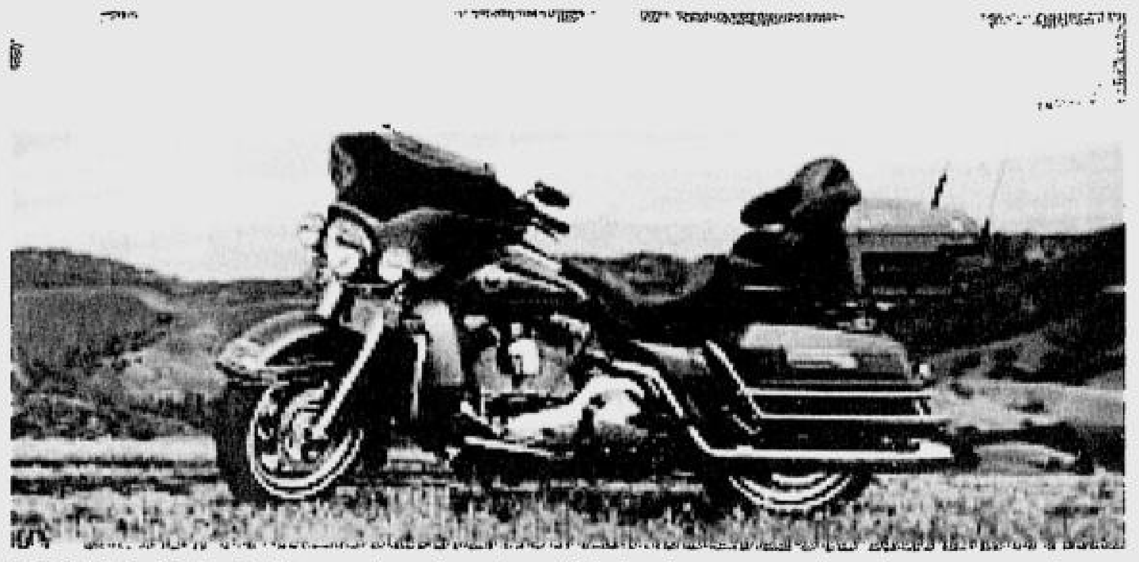
Business Features Editor Margie Quimpo-Espino

Ways for your brand to achieve focus

By Karen V. De Asis
Contributor

NEXT to Al Ries and Jack Trout's concept of positioning, which helped raise the level of marketing to a science, came the much-debated concept of Focus by the same marketing gurus.

While marketing strategists accepted the concept of focus with positive fervor, it was nonetheless difficult to implement. With a few exceptions, chief marketing officers found it next to impossible to convince their CEOs, to concentrate their resources on a single or limited market segment as well as develop single-minded positioning or a brand identity statement. Never mind, if focusing meant establishing a reputation and strong market presence.



DESPITE the Harley Davidson motorcycles not exactly being the most superior and contemporary in today's times, it remains as one of the world's most valuable brands with a brand value of $6.78 billion.

Case for entropy

Ironically, this hard-pressed acceptance of focus is best explained by Rudolf Clausius' theory of entropy that states "overtime, the entropy or disorder of any closed system increases". Akin to closets, which turn to disarray after some time and despite having been previously straightened out, organizations likewise come into disorder and become unfocused even if it was initially focused.

CEOs drive the focus or unfocus

A focused mindset is the result of the organization leadership's handiwork. Without restraint from the top, a company may soon go to entropy. One classic marketing story is that of General Motors whose former CEO, Alfred Sloan, led the company to its glory years. Before his management, General Motors was a far second to Ford Motors, with a meager 12 percent share to the latter's 50 percent market share. General Motors offered the market a wide range of passenger car brands with overlapping price ranges like Chevrolet, Oldsmobile, Scripps-Booth, Sheridan, Oakland, etc. in contrast to Ford's single brand with three price point models.

Sloan's single most important act was to cut the product lines, focus the segments he would like to serve and provide the differentiation for the remaining brands ensuring no pricing overlaps. Slowly but surely, this strategy drove General Motors to dominate the category for 50 years. Until, new management stepped in and set the tone for a new direction. In the words of the succeeding CEO Thomas Murphy, "General Motors is not in the business of making cars, General Motors is in the business of making money". Soon after, General Motors was back to its former shape of entropy, pre-Sloan time.

The unfocused mindset

There are a number of reasons that drive leadership and owners to a state of unfocus. Among them are:

Obsessive need to fill up manufacturing capabilities. Propelled by an intense desire to meet 100 percent production efficiency and reduce overhead, entrepreneurs consider production of other products that do not remain true to the original portfolio.

Flexible pricing. Faced by customers challenging a product's affordability, companies are susceptible to prolonged promotions and price cuts. In all likelihood, these companies do not realize that the real problem lies not in their absolute pricing but in the likelihood that these same consumers do not see any real value behind the product or service hence, the reason for their questioning the pricing.

Maximizing distribution channels. Blessed with distribution capability, owners are endlessly tempted to seek and carry the hottest and newest products in the market never mind if it does not match the present brand portfolio.

Addressing customer life cycle. Recognizing that present customers may outgrow the existing product portfolio, organizations fall into the trap of extending the same brands and product portfolio to the next stage in the customer life cycle. Never mind if the market in the next age level and stage has different motivations altogether.

Evidence of successful focus

Ironically, while many firms are bent on unfocusing, many of the world's most valuable brands have remained focused, in the process extending their life-years anchored on a single brand identity and providing evidence to the concept of focus. To name a few, among these brands are: Coca-Cola, 117 years; Microsoft, 28 years; McDonalds, 48 years; Marlboro, 83 years; and Mercedes Benz, 77 years.

Achieving razon sharp focus

With hyper-competition, an influx of messages, and the increasing immunity of consumers to commercial messages (unless they see it as relevant and meaningful), it has been all the more exigent among marketers to simplify their product offer and messages. Some of the ways by which marketers can achieve a sharp focus include:

Focus and own one underlying motive. Pressed by stockholders to enter the casual footwear market, founding chairperson of Nike, Phil Knight resolutely refused to extend the powerful brand name Nike to casual footwear. The self-restrained CEO instead bought Cole Haan, a strong brand in the casual luxury footwear. A wise move since Nike's brand equity always has been athletics and competitive sport, brand values that are in contrast to casual walk and leisure.

Focus and own one economic segment. When Toyota chairEiji Toyoda decided on August, 1983 to enter the luxury car segment, he shrewdly did so with another brand name, Lexus. After all, Toyota has always had a strong association with the middle-income market.

Focus and own one lifestyle and personality. Despite the Harley Davidson motorcycles not exactly being the most superior and contemporary in today's times, it remains as one of the world's most valuable brands with a brand value of $6.78 billion. Harley Davidson motorcycles are not exactly the best functional motorcycles around. Harleys are the biggest, heaviest, loudest motorcycles in the road. But it is this sound, feel and look that recognize the macho, freedom-seeking person who is willing to break out from the mould and confining societal norms of dress and behavior.

Focus and own a motivation. There are reasons that drive people to buy a product or service. Key to this is the marketer's discovery of a latent need that will create an intense desire among a target market to purchase a product or service —it may be the reliability of a parcel arriving absolutely and positively on time, in the case of Fedex or a higher-order need attached to a cause or advocacy in the case of Body Shop, a brand of make-up and personal toiletries that espouse "no to animal testing for cosmetics."

Focus and own a perception. A few decades back, computer users did not care about a microprocessor nor knew that it is the brain that powers computers. Until Intel came along and did a massive ingredient branding advertising campaign that created a strong perception that the fastest and most powerful computer can only come with an Intel microprocessor, a chip that is not even visible to the eye when one buys a computer.

Choosing a segment and stocking

Focusing means selecting the segment that one can best serve. This requires the marketer to limit the product line suited to what is relevant to the market segment and stocking in-depth against that product line. In more ways than one, there is greater success when one stakes a ground and dominates a segment, rather than simply being a small fish in a big pond.

(The author is a marketing consultant and professor of Marketing Management and Brand Management at the De La Salle Professional School's Graduate School of Business with email address at kdeasis@skyinet.net)

VAT Refund Issues Clarified

TAX-FILES

By Dante R. Bravo
SGV & Co.

THE BUREAU of Internal Revenue (BIR) has issued Revenue Memorandum Circular (RMC) No. 42-2003 to clarify certain issues on the processing of claims for credit/refund of value added tax (VAT) filed with the BIR, including those filed with the Tax Revenue Group of One-Stop Shop (TRG-OSS) Inter-Agency Tax Credit and Duty Drawback Center (DDC) of the Department of Finance (DOF).

Supplier of exporter-claimant

According to RMC 42-2003, claims for VAT credit/refund filed by the exporter-buyer on the basis of VAT invoices and receipts issued by supplier with an approved application for zero-rating will be denied. This is because the invoices and receipts issued by the supplier that has an approved application for effectively zero-rating should not carry any VAT component and the supplier must report such sales as zero-rated. The denial of the claim for VAT credit/refund is, however, without prejudice to the exporter-buyer's right to seek reimbursement of the VAT paid, if any, from the supplier.

PEZA-registered entities

Under RMC No. 74-99, effective October 1999, purchases by PEZA-registered firms, whether enjoying the five percent preferential tax rate or income tax holiday (ITH), automatically qualify as zero-rated without seeking prior approval from the BIR.

RMC 42-2003 stated if the PEZA-registered entity is enjoying a five percent preferential tax treatment, it cannot, in any case, claim a refund of the VAT paid on its purchases.

But if the PEZA-registered entity is enjoying ITH, it can file a claim for credit/refund of the VAT it paid on its purchases prior to the effectivity of RMC 74-99 subject to the following conditions:

a.. The claimant is VAT registered;

b. Purchases are evidenced by VAT invoices or receipts with shifted VAT to the purchaser prior to the implementation of RMC No. 74-99; and

c. The supplier issues a sworn statement under penalties of perjury that it shifted the VAT and declared the sales to the PEZA-registered purchaser as taxable sales in its VAT returns.

In case the supplier issued VAT invoices/receipts without having been stamped of the word "zero-rated" but treated the same as zero-rated sales, the purchaser cannot claim a refund of the VAT it paid.

If the VAT was billed during the effectivity of RMC No. 74-99, VAT credit/refund filed by PEZA-registered entities, regardless of the type or class of PEZA registration, will be denied.

Pre-operating stage

Claims for input taxes during the pre-operating stage should be filed with the BIR office where the taxpayer is registered. TRG-OSS has no jurisdiction to process such claims. The said claims should refer only to the acquisition of property, plant and equipment and other fixed assets.

Two-year prescriptive period

Previously, there was confusion whether the two-year prescriptive for the filing of the claim for VAT refund be reckoned from the filing of the VAT return or from the close of the taxable quarter. RMC 42-2003 now clarified that the claim for VAT refund may be filed within two years after the close of the taxable quarter when the sales were made. For input taxes paid on capital goods imported or locally purchased, the claim may be filed within two years after the close of the taxable quarter when the importation or purchase was made.

Filing of request for reconsideration

Taxpayers whose claims were denied due to failure to submit supporting documents are given 30 days from receipt of the letter of denial to file a request for reconsideration and to submit the required documents to the TRG-OSS or to other concerned BIR offices which issued the denial letter.

Generally, the BIR loses jurisdiction over the claim when it is filed with the Court of Tax Appeals (CTA). Thus, when the claim is denied by the CTA, the BIR cannot grant any tax credit or refund for the same claim.

However, cases involving tax credit/ refund claims, which are archived in the CTA and have not been acted upon by the said court, may be processed by the concerned BIR office upon approval of the CTA to archive or suspend the proceeding of the case pending in its bench.

Deduction of deficiency assessments

If in the course of processing the claim for VAT refund filed with the TRG-OSS, a deficiency assessment is found due from the taxpayer-claimant, the said assessment will be deducted from the claim if it pertains to output VAT and compromise penalties related to VAT.

If the deficiency assessment pertains to taxes other than VAT, the TRG-OSS will not deduct such assessment from the claim and instead, refer the assessment to the concerned BIR office.

However, if the taxpayer-claimant is willing to pay such assessment, other than an assessment for withholding tax, or any unprotested delinquent account before the release of taxpayer-claimant's Tax Credit Certificate (TCC), the taxpayer-claimant will apply for a Tax Debit Memo (TDM) which will be charged off immediately against the TCC issued. In such case, the said payment will be treated as an advance payment of the deficiency tax of the taxpayer-claimant without prejudice to additional assessments that might be found later by the appropriate BIR office.

In case the delinquent account is protested, the office processing the claim should verify from the concerned BIR office if the taxpayer-claimant's protest has been denied or not. If denied, and subsequently the assessment becomes final and executory, the amount should be deducted from the approved amount of tax credit through the issuance of a TDM.

Use of TCC to pay VAT

If the input tax being refunded by the purchaser is part of the supplier's output tax paid via supplier's TCC, such input tax may be refunded if the supplier's TCC originated from the payment of an internal revenue tax, and not a TCC from payment of other taxes issued by another agency. Likewise, if the claimant pays the VAT on importations using a TCC issued by the Bureau of Customs (BOC) which was recommended by the BIR/TRG-OSS for issuance, the same shall be allowed to be claimed by the importer/buyer as input tax credit.

Offsetting arrangement

RMC 57-97, which was issued in line with CB Circular No. 1389 dated April 13, 1993, already dispensed with the requirement as to the certification from the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP) regarding the offsetting arrangement. In lieu of such BSP certification, RMC 42-2003 requires the submission of the following documents as proof of the offsetting arrangement:

a. Import documents which created liability accounts in favor of the foreign parent or affiliated company;

b. Other contracts with the foreign or affiliated company that brought about the liabilities which were offset against receivables from export sales;

c. Evidence of proceeds of loans, in case the claimant has received loans or advances from the foreign company;

d. Documents or correspondence regarding offsetting arrangements;

e. Confirmation of the offsetting arrangements by the heads of the business organizations involved;

f. Documents to prove actual export of goods;

g. Documents to prove that the sales are zero-rated sales.

Out-of-period claims

In case the supporting documents (invoices/receipts) evidencing the sources of input tax credits were issued outside the taxable period covered by the claims (out-of-period claims), the input taxes generated therefrom may still be credited upon verification that the same have not yet been claimed provided that they comply with all the following requirements, viz:

1. That the VAT invoices/receipts are issued within the taxable year that the claim was made;
2. That the VAT invoices/receipts cover transactions for the same taxable year;
3. That they have not been claimed in any other quarter of the same or different taxable year; and
4. The invoices/receipts are not claimed in any period ahead of the actual date of the said invoices/receipts.

Any excess input taxes generated from VAT invoices/receipts which are claimed within the taxable year can be carried over to the following taxable year.

To ensure that "out-of-period" input taxes are not claimed again in any period other than the period covered by the claim, RMC 42-2003 requires the processing office to do the following:

a. Assign the verification of claims of the taxpayer for the four (4) quarters of the taxable year to only one group;

b. Ensure that the input taxes being claimed were recorded in the books under the asset account "Input Taxes"; and

c. Cancel original invoices/receipts before release of the TCC/Refund.

Input taxes which have been capitalized or charged to expense cannot be claimed as tax credit during any taxable year, despite any adjustment made during the succeeding taxable year. The input tax claim should always be recorded under the asset account "Input Tax" in the books of the claimant, with full observance of the accounting principle of timeliness, before the same can be claimed as tax credit.

Non-declaration of zero-rated sales

If the taxpayer-claimant fails to declare its zero-rated sales in the VAT returns, the taxpayer-claimant may still be allowed to refund its input taxes attributable to such zero-rated sales upon sufficient proof of its existence. However, the taxpayer-claimant will be required to pay a compromise penalty for not supplying the correct information. For this purpose, RMC 42-2003 requires the Revenue Officer to establish the existence of zero-rated sales from the audited financial statements, books of accounts, export invoices, bills of lading or airway bills and by comparing the reported sales against the output tax reflected in the VAT return.

Failure to comply with invoicing requirement

Non-compliance with the invoicing requirements on the documents supporting the sale of goods and services will result to the disallowance of the claim for input tax by the purchaser-claimant.

Claims for refund/TCC based on the existence of zero-rated sales by the taxpayer which fails to comply with the invoicing requirements in the issuance of sales invoices (e.g. failure to indicate the TIN) shall be denied. This is because the invoice issued by the taxpayer-claimant to its customers does not show that it is VAT-registered taxpayer whose sales are classified as zero-rated sales. However, the denial of the claim is without prejudice to the right of the taxpayer to charge the input taxes to the appropriate expense account or asset account subject to depreciation, whichever is applicable. Moreover, the case shall be referred by the processing office to the concerned BIR office for verification of other tax liabilities of the taxpayer.

(For feedback, the writer may be reached at 0917-3270628.)

Marketing to the Josés (including the José Velardes and José Pidals) - III

MARKETING RX

Dr. Ned Roberto & Ardy Roberto

THE question being answered in the past two weeks was about marketing to the rich.

We left our discussion last week, writing about the established rich market. In this week's column, MRx defines the consumer behavior of the gross nouveau riche (GNR) and then concludes this series next week with the smart nouveau riche (SNR)

The gross nouveau riche (GNR) is the contrast of the born rich. These are the rags-to-riches moneyed people. They became rich because of hard work and a lot or even just a bit of luck in a good number of them.

GNR consumer as a person

As a self-made multi-millionaire or billionaire, a GNR discovers his changed social status brings problems he is not well prepared to manage. When they became rich, GNRs find that they do not know how to live and behave as wealthy persons. It is largely because of the consequent contrasting mix of observable hesitations and compulsive actions that the term "nouveau riche" has taken and is used with a disparaging uncomplimentary meaning.

The sense of hesitations and compulsions find expressions in GNRs' doubts as they are often heard asking: "Am I wearing the right clothes?" "Am I found in the right places?" "Am I with the right crowd?" "Am I doing the right things?" "Am I saying the right things?" Coping with these felt uncertainties typically comes in the form of exaggerated show of "things" thought as "what rich folks own, have, do and say."

The exaggerated thinking and over reactions frequently get channeled into acts of "big spending." GNRs are super big spenders of cars, homes, jewelry, fashion goods, cosmetics, and signature products. A well-known case in point of a scandalous mega spender is the former President of the Philippines Erap Estrada. Analysts say that he is "the supreme embodiment" of a GNR.

Estrada had supposedly installed in the kitchens of all his mansions, starting with his luxurious San Juan residence, the very expensive Sub-Zero appliances. Sub-Zero refs costs between P100,000 and P500,000.

Marketers who go after the GNRs position their products and services as solutions to these feelings of inadequacies and insecurities. For example, in the case of Estrada's purchase of the Sub-Zero appliances, industry sources narrated that price was not even discussed. When asked why he did not even bother to find out how much he was buying, we were told that the former President replied in the dialect saying: "*Pag presyo ang nangingibabaw sa isip mo, wala ka pang arrive sa can-afford circle.*" (If it's price that's primarily in your mind, then you haven't arrived and reached the can-afford circle.)

The GNR's self-concept

Consumer psychologists consider a consumer's felt sense of inadequacy and insecurity as an indication of one's uncertainty about one's self-concept. This is in fact another definition of a GNR. He or she has yet to complete forming and shaping his or her self-identity. To get to a closure, a GNR weighed down by this sense of incomplete self-concept will use products symbolizing the dimensions of the self-concept needing completion. For example, many GNRs who feel they lack proficiency in speaking and writing in English are known to hire the "best" English tutor around. A known GNR lady who was told she was wonting in social graces did not hesitate in engaging the "best finishing school" trainer available.

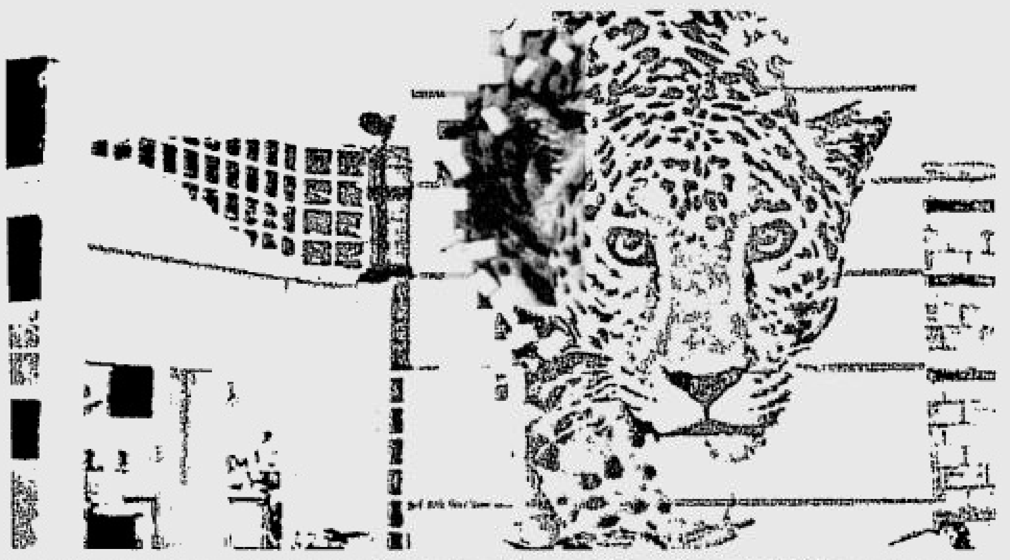
To trained observers, what distinctly characterizes the GNRs is their exaggerated sense of indulgence. It is an indulgence fueled by more than a "keeping-up-with-the-rich" psychology. It is a "be more than one step ahead of the established rich" frame-of-mind. The GNRs who fail to successfully climb the celebrity ladder and hit the society page headlines also behave with analogous extremity in indulgence. This is easy to witness in upscale stores like Rustan's Department Store and exclusive shops such as Louis Vuitton Escada, Armani Exchange (AX), Cerrutti 1881 (suits begin at "P20,000 up"), Burberry (where a tie sells for P2,500 when on sale), Kenneth Cole, Liz Claiborne, Hugo Boss and others.

Store managers from these retail outlets report how a typical GNR shopper is easy to identify. He or she would enter the store, speaking in loud broken English or accented Taglish, would point here and there for samples to try on and fit. Then the GNR would return to the counter and when asked if he or she would like to take any one of the five or six samples tried, would then answer in a voice intentionally and unmistakably pitched to be within hearing of other shoppers: "I'll get all of them but give me two of each." For the final effect, this GNR pays in cold cash. It is an excellent market segment for moving idle inventories.

As part of their search for a clearer self-identity, GNRs place this search along the path that pursues not cheap but extremely expensive "thrills." And so you find them in car and motorcycle racing tracks, scaling mountain heights, parachuting, high stakes gambling, and so on. It is easy to understand why GNRs can be drawn so much to thrill seeking behaviors. They are a coping channel for the GNRs' felt need to prove themselves. That's why despite the new tax laws taking effect on luxury SUVs, there will still be a load of Ford Expeditions sold in this country.

For all of these, GNRs are therefore a ready market for services and products related to skydiving experience, flying lessons, scuba diving, mountain and rock climbing, bungee jumping, car and motorcycle racing, and similar other "tests of one's physical and endurance limits."

Feedback at MarketingRx@SaltAndLightVentures.com



THE 3M Gulf Scotchprint® Graphics also has a "special effect." Scotchprint® perforated window marking film allows graphics to be viewed from the outside as a solid visual. From within, however, the view is transparent—the same effect of a one-way mirror.

Recreate your product and services with graphics

JUST when you thought you had seen it all, along comes a new idea that changes your world—or at least your illusion of it.

Imagine this. You walk into a big exhibition hall and you're floored—literally!—by the exquisite carpet that greets you at the entrance. You expect to sink your shoes into it as you cross the hall, but no! It's just a graphic laid out artfully on the floor, complete with minor wrinkles here and there.

That's exactly what the 3M Gulf Scotchprint® Graphics sales team did in Dubai when they got the brilliant idea of replacing the real carpets at the site with images of carpets made with Scotchprint® Graphics. The result: lots of savings in the costs of cleaning and maintaining expensive silk carpets that were to be displayed at the exhibition entrance. And lots of *oohs* and *aahs*.

Graphics are the new art and mindset of the millennium. They are the modern evolution of Michaelangelo's frescoes and Da Vinci's paintings. They're the new wave in visual messages that transform our surroundings into alternate realities. Art-wise and marketing-wise, they get the message across.

3M, the company with a tradition of innovation, has come up with the latest product of its creative workforce in the Scotchprint® Graphics for sidewalk signs.

What it can do

Look what it can do. In Baltimore, Maryland, the Port Discovery Museum—an interactive "kid-powered" tourist attraction, used Scotchprint® Graphics for sidewalk signs from one mile away to build traffic to its off-the-beaten-path location. One hundred fifty sets of boy and girl footprints were applied in fun ways around a tree or going around in circles—just like the way a kid would walk.

The signs were a hit. Kids hopped from print to print and Port Discovery got more traffic than ever that year.

Or consider what the Leafs—a Canadian football team—did with the same graphics. As they began the playoff season, they combined their solid hometown support with the power of this new advertising medium and literally laid it down on the busiest street in Canada.

"Go, Leafs, Go" messages, some with goalie masks to represent the star player, others with the Leafs logo, came up on sidewalks and stretched for several blocks. Some were positioned in front of the Air Canada Centre, others in front of CityTV, and others in front of sports stores that sponsored the team.

Not just for sidewalks

But the sidewalks aren't the only place where Scotchprint® Graphics can be seen. Facades of tall buildings are changing their looks and concepts with giant graphics. Airplanes are getting a new look with colorful graphics.

At the Burger King office, a giant Whopper delivers a whopping effect. A motorcycle company has a giant cheetah seemingly crashing through the brick walls and leaping onto the ground.

A lot of visual magic is performed with these new graphics. A lot of attention is also called. Whether for art's sake, or to advertise a product, the new Scotchprint® graphics offer the advertiser a unique and memorable way to establish and maintain brand presence at the point of customer contact.

The new graphic film from 3M can be easily applied to—and removed from—concrete, pavers, asphalt, glass, plastic and brick. They normally last from six to 18 months and can easily be removed, or replaced, when desired.

This 3M product also has a "special effect." Scotchprint® perforated window marking film allows graphics to be viewed from the outside as a solid visual. From within, however, the view is transparent—the same effect of a one-way mirror.

Flyers get tossed, billboards pass by in a blur, and not everybody watches TV or reads the papers. But one can't help but look down at what they're walking on. Or look up at giant images on buildings that seemingly look alive from afar.

The new graphics from 3M are now in the Philippines and have already been discovered by pace setting companies and advertisers for their businesses and concerns. For more information, call 813-3781 to 95 or visit www.3m.com.

GRAPHICS are the new art and mindset of the millennium. They are the modern evolution of Michaelangelo's frescoes and Da Vinci's paintings.

Of burgers and Pinoys' quirks in eating them

By Margie Quimpo-Espino

MARKETING STRATEGY

THE FILIPINO is a unique breed and even when eating hamburgers, his idiosyncracies show.

A chat with Philking Restaurants Development Corp.(franchise holder of Burger King in the Philippines) president Raul B. Nazareno reveals some interesting quirks about the Pinoy consumer.

For one thing, Filipinos seem to have an affinity for sodium. We always ask for an extra serving of catsup, mayonnaise, gravy.

Gravy has evolved into a product in itself in some restaurants.

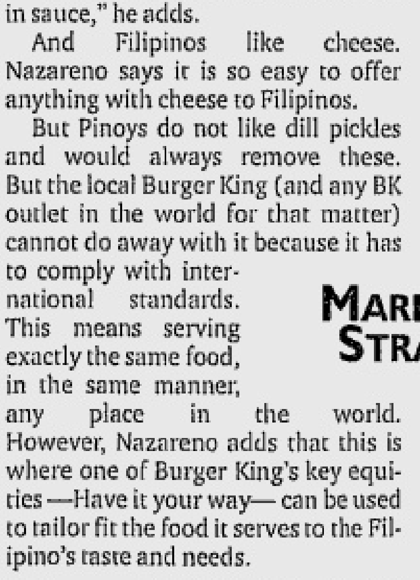
"We use gravy as soup, " Nazareno smiles.

It seems we are a "saucy" people.

"We like our beefsteak swimming in sauce," he adds.

And Filipinos like cheese. Nazareno says it is so easy to offer anything with cheese to Filipinos.

But Pinoys do not like dill pickles and would always remove these. But the local Burger King (and any BK outlet in the world for that matter) cannot do away with it because it has to comply with international standards. This means serving exactly the same food, in the same manner, any place in the world. However, Nazareno adds that this is where one of Burger King's key equities —Have it your way— can be used to tailor fit the food it serves to the Filipino's taste and needs.



MANY Filipinos always ask for an extra serving of catsup, gravy and mayonnaise.

PHILKING president Raul Nazareno lists the two key equities of Burger King—'Have it your way' and flame broiling. PHOTOS BY BETOY JOHNSON

He explains that at Burger King "we allow customers to express individual tastes and preferences."

In the United States, the marketing line of Burger King is that you can have the Whopper served in 1,000 ways or more.

Here in the Philippines, the possibilities are countless, too—two patties or a fish patty, no mayonnaise, extra mayonnaise. . . Depending on what the consumer wants, however, there could be some added costs to ordering variants.

The other key equity of BK, according to Nazareno, is its flame broiling method of cooking. This means no oil is used.

"This equals to better taste and a better quality product."

The Whopper remains its number one seller, accounting for about eight percent of revenues.

But chicken is also a high selling item at five percent of total revenues.

Filipinos love chicken. Nazareno says Asians, in general, like chicken, only in different variants.

Filipinos like fried chicken, while Taiwanese and Singaporeans like spicy chicken wings.

In fact, he reminds, that in the other burger chains, it is the chicken which is the bestseller, not the burgers.

But for BK, unlike its competitors, sales are not skewed heavily on one item.

This may also stem from the fact that Burger King serves more items (and more variants) on its menu, which Nazareno says, sometimes poses a challenge in terms of operations.

They have, for example, non-meat burger which is imported and made of grains.

Nazareno says a wider offering is one of the keys to attracting and maintaining a loyal group of customers.

He states that people always like variety and having more on the menu makes customers come back.

For September, for example, they have the Teriyaki Festival. Another promo is the float for only P6.

Nazareno says promotions are good strategies to increase sales.

He reveals that when they promoted the Whopper, sales increased by 58 percent.

Sometimes, he says, promos are simply meant to bring in traffic during periods of low sales and not really to increase profits.

He cites the promotions of Tom and Jerry's, the famous ice cream chain in the US, during winter, which actually make people buy ice cream despite freezing weather.

Nazareno admits the tremendously strict standards they have to adhere to because of their international affiliation.

He cites, for example, that they are the only burger chain that puts the time an item is still okay for consumption—usually 10 minutes after it is served.

When they do deliveries, there is a representative item with a thermometer stuck to it, to ensure that the temperature of the food at the time it is delivered does not go below the standards set for its consumption.

Bulacan products launched to world market

THE PROVINCE of Bulacan continues to execute its development agenda with the launch of seven priority products.

Under the "Tatak Bulakenyo" project, the launch of the seven products is the province's initial attempt to market world-class food products to the local and foreign market. The launch will coincide with the celebration of Bulacan Week slated on Sept. 8 to 15, at the Koop Mart, Capitol Building, Malolos, Bulacan.

The seven products identified are: Bulacan coffee, tinapang bangus (smoked milkfish), longganisa Marilao (native sausage), pastilles de leche, ensaymada, inipit and minasa.

Bulacan Governor Josie Mendoza Dela Cruz said that the selection of these first seven products is based on the potential and the rate of success that these food items show.

"They have the biggest potential and the highest chance of success because they are already known," Dela Cruz explained. This move came as a result of a forum created to address the need to develop packaging for Bulacan food products. The forum is a concerted effort among the Provincial government, the Provincial Cooperative and Economic Development Office with the assistance of the Department of Science and Technology and the Department of Trade and Industry-Malolos.

The only major intervention that these products undergo, according to Dela Cruz, are packaging and the improvement of their shelf lives.

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LEYTE III ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC. (LEYECO III)
Tunga, Leyte

INVITATION TO PREQUALIFY AND TO BID

The LEYTE III ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC invites interested parties to supply
ONE ASSEMBLY 5 MVA ELECTRIC POWER SUBSTATION

A. CIVIL WORKS
SUPPLY OF LABOR & MATERIALS

SCOPE OF WORK:
1. Site Development (Clearing, excavation, backfilling/compacting-400 sqm.
2. Perimeter Fence
3. Guard House
4. Steel Structure (Galvanize) & Concrete Foundation
    - 4.a 69 KV "H" Steel Frame (Galvanize) & Foundation (Footings)
    - 4.b 13.2 KV Steel Structure (Galvanize) & Foundation (Footings)
    - 4.c 69 KV Steel Frame for SF6 & Foundation (Footings)
    - 4.d Transformer pad
    - 4.e 13.2 VCB Steel frame & footings
    - 4.f Concrete Pedestal for 13.2 KV terminating/distribution Feeder.
5. Control and Battery Room or Container Van
6. Others

B. MAJOR COMPONENTS OF ELECTRICAL EQUIPMENT
SUPPLY OF EQUIPMENT AND INSTALLATION

3 units	Surge/Lightning Arresters, outdoor, station class, 60 KV, 10 KA
3 units	69 KV Current Transformer, outdoor, dual core, protection and metering accuracy 150 – 100/50 5A
3 units	69 KV Potential Transformer, 350/600 1
1 set	69 KV, 1250A double side Break Disconnect Switch, 3 pole with motor operated mechanism.
1 set	SF6 Circuit Breaker, 69 KV, 1250A, 31 5 KA, outdoor, motor operated with Gas Filling equipment, leakage detector and Maintenance tools (live tank)
1 set	Digital Protective relay, 3 phase protection, with event, fault and disturbance Recording and Auxiliaries SCADA Ready.
1 set	5MVA Power transformer, 69/13.800 KV with no load tap changer and complete accessories: Pressure relief device with alarm contact Relays with alarm contact Oil level gauge with alarm contact Oil temperature relay with alarm contact
2 sets	Disconnect switch SMD 20-200E (6 Units for FlxF2)
3 units	Capacitor 25 K VAR
2 sets	15 KV, 630A, 12.5 KA, 110KV Hil, AC operated with complete Instrumentation, Digital Protective relays and monitoring accessories 15 KV XLPE Power Cables and others
1 set	substation lighting and power: 10 K VA, 13.2/7620/240/120V fuse cut out surge arrester Substation Grounding System #4/0 Bare copper Wire and Accessories
Others	

Note Other matters materials/ equipment needed which has not been taken will be discuss during Pre bidding.
This is a lease to own scheme project for 5 year (60 months)

SCHEDULE OF ACTIVITIES

1 Pre bidding conference	Sept. 19, 2003 at 10:00 am
2 Date of Submission	
a) Pre qualification requirements	Sept 22, 2003 until 4 00 pm
b) Technical & financial report	Sept. 25, 2003 at 9.00 am
3 Opening of Bids	Sept. 25, 2003 at 11 00 am

LEYECO III reserves the right to reject any and/or all bids if the committee find irregularities and assume no obligation to any expenses incurred by prospective bidders and suppliers.

Noted:
(Sgd.) ENGR. EDMUNDO C. SUMAYOD
General Manager

(Sgd.) ENGR. ESTEBAN MANLAPAS
Chairman, Pre-Bids and Award Committee

(PDI-Sept 17, 18 & 19, 2003)

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PUBLIC NOTICES

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is given that the estate of the late CARLITO EDORA who died on August 13 2002 in Masinloc, Zambales has been extrajudicially settled among his heirs on December 27, 2002 under Doc. 150, Page 31, Book III, Series of 2002 by Notary Public for Makati City. Alden Francis C. Gonzales.
(PDI-Sept 12, 19 & 26 2003)

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late CHEN SHAN TSAI has been extrajudicially settled among his heirs as per Document # 319; Page #75; Book 45 Series of 2003 before Notary Public Lupe M. Velasco of Manila (PDI- September 5, 12 & 19 ' 2003)

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"In Christ all shall be alive..." **Corinthians 15:22**

DR. GREGORIO MANILA BAILON

of Daraga, Albay
May 9, 1912 – September 17, 2003

Peacefully joined our Lord
at the age of 91.

His bereaved wife **Carolina (Babie) R. Bailon**; loving sister **Pilar B. Roces**; loving children **Nora & Roger Mendiola, Inday & Manny Santi, Beth, Beorge, & Melissa, Ed & Armie, Ben, Joseph, Rose & Jacob Kuruvinakunnel**; grandchildren **Babette & Erwin Ramos, Richie & Pia Mendiola, Oliver & Peewee Mendiola, Tricia, Tin, Abet & Joseph Santi, Joshua Bailon, Jed, Anca, Kathlyn & IC Bailon, Kate Bailon, Jopy Bailon, Caro & Mathew Kuruvinakunnel** and great grandchildren **Matthew & Lawrence Ramos, Trissa & Mica Mendiola** and **Maxinne Mendiola**, and relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at Funeraria Oro, Legaspi City.

Interment will be on Wednesday, September 24, 2003
at the Albay Catholic Cemetery after the 2:00 P.M. Mass at Albay Cathedral.

EUGENIA LOPEZ FERNANDEZ

Died in the Grace of the Lord
September 17, 2003 at the age of 85.

The bereaved family: Husband **Guillermo** (†); children **Willy** and **Ellen**, **Wilda**, **Clyde** and **Susan**; grandchildren **Anthony** and **Abbie**, **Joseph** and **Yoli**, **Melissa**; great grandchild **Nicole**; relatives and friends request prayers for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at the Ancestral Home in Binmaley, Pangasinan.

Interment will be announced later.

Message of Thanks

For visiting us and being with us in our time of sorrows...
For praying with us and for us...
For the Mass cards and messages of sympathy and condolence...
For the beautiful flowers to express compassion...
For joining us in our nightly vigils...
For attending the Masses and funeral rites...
For thinking of us in our hour of grief...
For all that you have done to console our hearts...

Our sincerest gratitude. Maraming Salamat Po!

From the family of the late

Col. Nicolas Enciso Ojeda, Sr. PC (Ret.)

PMA '43

"Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy" Matthew 5:7

The Missionary Society of Saint Columban
mourns the death of

FR. JAMES McCASLIN

who died in Omaha, Nebraska
on 16th September 2003, aged 75.

Fr. Jim was ordained in Omaha, Nebraska in 1954 and came to the Philippines the following year. He was first assigned to Student Catholic Action in Manila before going to the Diocese of Iba, Zambales where he served for nine years (1957-1966) in the parishes of Subic, Palauig and Castillejos. He was then recalled to the U.S. where he worked in student formation and retreat work for the next fourteen years. On his return to the Philippines he continued to give retreats throughout the country. In 1990 he accepted the task of researching and writing the history of the Columbans in the Philippines. Upon completion of this work he volunteered in 1994 to work with the Filipino migrant community in Hong Kong until his retirement in 2002 due to ill health. He will be greatly missed by his many friends in the Philippines.

A Memorial Mass for the repose of Fr. McCaslin will be said in Malate Catholic Church on Tuesday, 23rd September at 6:00 p.m.

Requiescat in Pace

So Dearly Remembered
on the Second Death Anniversary
of our dear "Mommy and Lola Azon"

DR. CORAZON VALENTE DIVINO – FONTILLAS

of Botolan, Zambales

who peacefully passed away in the company of Mary, the Queen of Heaven and St. Josemaria Escrivá
Holy Masses will be offered tomorrow, Saturday, September 20, 2003 at the following churches:

Sta. Monica Church, Botolan, Zambales – 6 AM; **Iba Cathedral**, Iba, Zambales – 6 AM, **Monasterio de Sta. Clara**, Katipunan Ave., Quezon City - 6 AM; **St. Joseph Shrine**, Aurora Blvd, Project 3, Quezon City – 6:15 AM, **Parish of the Holy Sacrifice**, U.P., Diliman, Quezon City – 6 AM, **Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish**, Kamuning, Quezon City – 7 AM; **Sta. Maria Della Strada**, Katipunan Road, Quezon City – 6 AM; **Sto. Domingo Church**, Quezon Ave., Quezon City – 7:15 AM; **St. Joseph Convent**, Hemady St., New Manila, Quezon City – 6 AM; **Christ the King Seminary**, E. Rodriguez, Sr., Quezon City – 7 AM; **Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal**, Project 4, Quezon City – 6 AM;
Immaculate Concepcion Cathedral, Lantana Street, Cubao, Quezon City 7 AM;

Shrine of Our Lady of the Abandoned, Sta. Ana, Manila - 6:30 AM; **National Shrine of the Sacred Heart**, SAV, Makati – 7 AM and 6 PM; **St. John Bosco Parish Church**, Arnaiz Street, Makati, 6:30 AM;

St. Alphonsus Church, Thomson Road, Singapore, 6 AM & 7 PM; **St John Church**, Hasting Road, Mairangi Bay, New Zealand, 9 AM; **Immaculate Concepcion Monastery**, 5700 North Harlem Ave., Chicago, Illinois, USA, 6:30 AM; **Our Lady Queen of Martyrs Church**, Forest Hills, New York, USA, 6:30 AM; **National Shrine of St. Jude**, 3200E 91st Street, Chicago, Illinois, USA, 7 AM & 5 PM;

We, her loving husband, children and grandchildren request relatives, friends and pious readers to join us in our prayers for the eternal repose of her soul.

"For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have everlasting life."
John 3:16

PERFECTO M. PLATA

"The Lord is my Shepherd, there is nothing I shall want." Psalm 23

November 18, 1907 - September 17, 2003

His wife **Nena** (†); his children **Myrna, Oscar, Lorna, Norma & Rogel** (†); his children-in-law **Nes C. Hilario & Delia Loyola**; his grandchildren **Nette & Obet Andres, John & Liza Hilario, JB & Gie Hilario, Golda Plata & Aaron Plata**; great grandchildren **Sophyia,Brycee, Lance** and **Kirsten**; relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for his eternal happiness in heaven.

His remains lie in state at the Arlington Memorial Chapels.

Interment will be at 9:00 a.m. on Sunday, September 21, 2003 at the Holy Cross Memorial Park in Novaliches, after the 8:00 a.m. Mass.

ATTY. LAUREANO LADERA JAVIER

Peacefully joined his Creator
on September 16, 2003 at the age of 73.

His loving wife **CHING OCOL JAVIER**; children **GIL CHITO & LALA, JOYCE BARBARA, A.B. CHRISTY & CHRIS**; grandchildren **CAMILLE, CARMELLA & MIGUEL**; brother **TERESO** and sisters **FILOMENA, NATY, LETY & DITAS**; uncles and aunts; nephews and nieces; relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for his eternal happiness in heaven.

His remains lie in state at the Arlington Memorial Chapels, G. Araneta Avenue, Quezon City.

Interment will be on Sunday, September 21, 2003 at the Loyola Memorial Park, Marikina after the 8:00 a.m. Mass.

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Republic of the Philippines
ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION
San Miguel Avenue, Pasig City

IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION FOR APPROVAL OF A REDUCTION IN RATES IN COMPLIANCE WITH SECTION 60 OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 9136 AND EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 119, WITH PRAYER FOR PROVISIONAL AUTHORITY

ERC CASE NO. 2003-346

LEYTE III ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC. (LEYECO III)
Applicant.
x- -x

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

TO ALL INTERESTED PARTIES:

Notice is hereby given of the filing by applicant Leyte III Electric Cooperative Inc. (LEYECO III) on June 20, 2003 of an application for the approval of a reduction in rates in compliance with Section 60 of Republic Act No 9136 and Executive Order No. 119, with prayer for provisional authority, docketed as ERC Case No. 2003-346. The applicant proposed a reduction in rates equivalent to P0.2390/kWh as a result of the condonation of its debts in accordance with R.A. 9136 and Executive Order No. 119.

The Commission has set the application for hearing on September 25, 2003 at one o'clock (1:00 P.M.) in the afternoon at LEYECO II, Real St., Tacloban City

All interested parties who may wish to comment on or oppose the said application should file their comments and/or oppositions on or before the date of hearing. Such parties who may wish to have the details of the application and who shall have manifested to the Commission their desire and intention to participate actively in the proceedings, may request that before the date of hearing, they be furnished with copies of the application by the applicant, which is hereby directed to furnish the parties making such request with copies of the application and its attachments. Likewise, any such interested party may examine the application and other pertinent records filed with the Commission during the usual office hours

WITNESS, the Honorable Chairman, MANUEL R. SANCHEZ and the Honorables OLIVER B. BUTALID, CARLOS R. ALINDADA, and LETICIA V. IBAY, Commissioners, Energy Regulatory Commission, this 5th day of August, 2003 at Pasig City

(Sgd.) FRUCTUOSO C. LAGUNZAD, JR.
Executive Director III

(PDI–Sept. 19, 2003)

Lean manufacturing system deployment

CHANGES and development are constantly occurring fast in our business environment. SME's goal is to support the development of market/technology. The issue of quality and productivity are prime factor in establishing credibility in the highly competitive domestic and global market.

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The Society of Manufacturing Engineers (SME) in recognition of its responsibility in promoting Lean Manufacturing Deployment Program is proudly offering its first in-depth seminar for 2003. Seminars will be held on the following dates: September 27, Oct. 4, 11, 18 and 25 at The Metro Club Estrella cor. Amapola Streets, Guadalupe Viejo, Makati City.

SME would like to invite you to attend this workshop-seminar and gain understanding and knowledge in Lean Manufacturing System that provides an insight into the fundamentals of maximizing the use of resources for the most efficient productivity. The participants will learn the approaches of Lean Manufacturing and then will be able to have a hands-on application using the tools and techniques of Lean Manufacturing.

For full details of the seminar, please contact SME Secretariat at Telefax No. 687-4827; (0919) 627-9418 ask for Lily or e-mail at lilyrose_atienza@hotmail.com. or (0917) 532-6391 Reynaldo Sanchez; (0917) 539-6429 Midred Hayag; (0917) 812-3689 Alan Abrenica.

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(Talaba Bacoor Cavite)

1	RESERVE
2	RESERVE

Berma Cinema

(Baclaran) tel 879.2030 879.2029

1	NAKED WEAPON
2	KALABIT

THE CENTER OF ENTERTAINMENT

Araneta

MALL CINEPLEX

tel 911.3101 loc. 821.8242.8400

1	2 FAST 2 FURIOUS
2	FIRST TIME
3	MEDALLION
4	HOLLYWOOD HOMICIDE
5	FREDDY VS JASON
6	SWAT
7	BASIC

FarmersPlaza CINEMAS

tel 911.3101 loc. 821.8242.8400

1	RESERVE
2	RESERVE

CINEMA 2000

Cinema 2000 Target Mall

(Sta. Rosa Laguna) TEL. (049) 837-0926

1	FIRST TIME
2	MEDALLION
3	HOLLYWOOD HOMICIDE

Cinema 2000 Waltermart

(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7383

1	FIRST TIME
2	MEDALLION
3	2 FAST 2 FURIOUS
4	HOLLYWOOD HOMICIDE

Cinema 2000 Pavilion Mall

(Biñan) tel (049) 411.1146

1	FIRST TIME
2	HOLLYWOOD HOMICIDE
3	2 FAST 2 FURIOUS
4	MEDALLION

Cinema 2000 Cinemagix

(Urdaneta) tel(075) 568.6771

1	PIRATES OF THE CARRIBEN
2	ASBOOBS
3	ITALIAN JOB
4	

Cinema 2000 MetroTown

(Tarlac) tel(045) 982.1729

1	LEGALLY BLONDE 2
2	PIRATES OF THE CARRIBEAN
3	2 FAST 2 FURIOUS
4	SPY KIDS - 3 D

Magic Star Cinema

(Tarlac City) tel (045) 611.4305

1	2 FAST 2 FOURIOUS
2	SPY KID-3D
3	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION

Lianas Cinema

(Alabang) tel 850.1276

1	NEW BLOOD
2	KALABIT
3	FIRST TIME
4	HOLLYWOOD HOMICIDE

Lianas MovieCity

(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7202

1	MEDALLION
2	ASBOOBS
3	HOLLYWOOD HOMICIDE
4	WWW XXX COM
5	FIRST TIME

Olivarez Tri-Cinema

(Biñan) tel (049) 511.8883

1	FIRST TIME
2	ASBOOBS
3	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION

Olivarez Los Baños

tel (049) 249.2558

1	MEDALLION
2	FIRST TIME
3	ASBOOBS

Mega Center Mall

(Cabanatuan City) tel (044) 463.3283

1	SPY KID-3D
2	ASBOOBS
3	FIRST TIME
4	2 FAST 2 FOURIOUS

Cabuyao

(Laguna City) tel (049) 531.4808

1	RESERVE
2	RESERVE

Emperor

(Rosario Cavite) tel (046) 438.1657

1	KALABIT
2	PIRATE OF THE CARRIBEAN
3	RESERVE

Fiesta World Mall

(Lipa) tel (043) 981.0790

1	ASBOOBS
2	LEGALLY BLONDE
3	2 FAST 2 FOURIOUS
4	SWAT

Jade Cinema

(Angeles City) tel (045)887-5001 TO 03

1	SPY KID-3D
2	FIRST TIME
3	HOLLYWOOD HOMICIDE
4	WWW.XXX.COM

Cine Nepo Mall

(Angeles City) tel (045) 887-0121

1	AS BOOBS
2	SPY KID-3D
3	HOLLYWOOD HOMICIDE
4	2 FAST 2 FURIOUS

*Movies are subject to change without prior notice

ADVANCED SCREENING THX DOLBY dts SDDS

FESTIVAL SUPERMALL

Level 4

Festival Supermall
Filinvest - Alabang

Tel 85035-71 to 72

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HOLLYWOOD HOMICIDE

NOW SHOWING

SM CINEMA

SM Dial-A-Movie Tel. 833-9999

NOW SHOWING

SM CITY BACOOR

4173868

1	S.W.A.T.
2	BASIC
3	FREDDY VS. JASON
4	FIRST TIME
5	HOLLYWOOD HOMICIDE
6	THE MEDALLION
7	KALABIT
8	2 FAST 2 FURIOUS

SM CENTERPOINT

7149522 -7161416

1	THE MEDALLION
2	S.W.A.T.
3	FREDDY VS. JASON
4	FIRST TIME
5	PETA
6	DADDY DAY CARE
7	BASIC
8	2 FAST 2 FURIOUS
9	HOLLYWOOD HOMICIDE
10	PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN

SM CITY FAIRVIEW

9350749

1	KALABIT
2	DADDY DAY CARE
3	PINAY PIE
4	FREDDY VS. JASON
5	S.W.A.T.
6	THE MEDALLION
7	BASIC
8	HOLLYWOOD HOMICIDE
9	2 FAST 2 FURIOUS
10	ASBOOBS
11	PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN
12	FIRST TIME

SM CITY MANILA

5239240

1	BASIC
2	HOLLYWOOD HOMICIDE
3	PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN
4	FREDDY VS. JASON
5	S.W.A.T.
6	2 FAST 2 FURIOUS
7	KALABIT
8	LEGALLY BLONDE 2
9	FIRST TIME
10	PINAYPIE
11	DADDY DAY CARE
12	THE MEDALLION

SM MEGAMALL

6331901 • 6329401

1 (For seat reservation call 6ЗЗ...)	2 FAST 2 FURIOUS
2	BASIC
3	FREDDY VS. JASON
4	HOLLYWOOD HOMICIDE
5	DADDY DAY CARE
6	CLOSED
7	BRAZEN WOMEN
8	LEGALLY BLONDE 2
9	FIRST TIME
10	THE MEDALLION
11	S.W.A.T.
12	KALABIT

SM CITY NORTH EDSA

9295452

1	S.W.A.T.
2	2 FAST 2 FURIOUS
3	FIRST TIME
4	THE MEDALLION
5	LEGALLY BLONDE 2
6	HOLLYWOOD HOMICIDE
7	BASIC
8	FREDDY VS. JASON

SM SOUTHMALL

8066888

1	2 FAST 2 FURIOUS
2	S.W.A.T.
3	FREDDY VS. JASON
4	HOLLYWOOD HOMICIDE
5	DADDY DAY CARE
6	KALABIT
7	THE MEDALLION
8	BASIC
9	PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN
10	FIRST TIME

SM CITY CEBU

2313878

1	SPY KIDS 3-D
2	BASIC
3	IN-LAWS
4	S.W.A.T.
5	PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN
6	WWW.XXX.COM
7	KALABIT
8	2 FAST 2 FURIOUS

SM CITY ILOILO

3209422

1	WWW.XXX.COM
2	RESERVED
3	S.W.A.T.
4	INTERSTATE 60
5	PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN
6	S.W.A.T
7	RESERVED
8	PINAYPIE

SM CITY PAMPANGA

7128015

1	SPY KIDS 3-D
2	HOLLYWOOD HOMICIDE
3	S.W.A.T.
4	2 FAST 2 FURIOUS
5	BASIC
6	FIRST TIME

SM SUPER CTR. SUCAT

8294975

1	FIRST TIME
2	BASIC
3	HOLLYWOOD HOMICIDE
4	FREDDY VS. JASON

SM CINEMA TUTUBAN

2514302

1	FREDDY VS. JASON
2	THE MEDALLION
3	FIRST TIME
4	BASIC

SM CITY DAVAO

2976998

1	S.W.A.T.
2	WWW.XXX.COM
3	PINAYPIE
4	PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN
5	BASIC
6	S.W.A.T.

SM BICUTAN

776-3055

1	HOLLYWOOD HOMICIDE
2	FIRST TIME
3	BASIC
4	FREDDY VS. JASON

SM CITY CAGAYAN DE ORO

859-2884

1	PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN
2	ASBOOBS
3	LEGALLY BLONDE 2
4	S.W.A.T.

CINE EUROPA

September 19, 2003 Friday SM Megamall Cinema

CINE EUROPA 6

Adult Behavior (Sweden)
2:00 p.m.
The Magdalene Sisters (UK)
4:30 p.m.
The Carriers are Waiting (Belgium)
7:00 p.m.
Nowhere In Africa (Germany)
9:30 p.m.

ADMISSION IS FREE

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Consumer's Quality Award 2003

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687-0593

THX /All Digital

1 HOLLYWOOD HOMICIDE 12:10, 2:30, 4:50 7:10, 9:30 THX	4 FREDDY VS. JASON 10:20, 12:40, 3:00. 5:20, 7:40, 10:00
2 HOLLYWOOD HOMICIDE 10:20, 12:40, 3:00, 5:20, 7:40, 10:00	5 BASIC 10:35,12:50,3:05. 5:20, 7:35, 9:55
3 2 FAST 2 FURIOUS 10:35, 12:50, 3:05, 5:20, 7:35, 9:55	6 THE MEDALLION 11:00, 1:10, 3:20. 5:30, 7:40, 9:50
7 S.W.A.T. 12:40, 3.00, 5:20, 7:40, 10:00	9 DADDY DAY CARE 11.00, 12.50, 2.40, 4.30, 6.20, 8.10, 10.00
8 1ST TIME 10:20, 12:40, 3:00, 5:20, 7:40, 10:00	10 PIRATES OF THE CARRIBEAN 11:00, 1:45, 4.30, 7:15, 10:00

MATINEE PRICE: P100 THX cinema / P75 4level cinema
Mon.- Fri. / 10am- 4pm (EXCEPT HOLIDAYS)

Ermita

526-7185
536-7809 to 12

1 FREDDY VS. JASON - 10:10, 12:25, 2:40, 4:55, 7:10, 9:40
2 1ST TIME - 10:30, 12:45, 3:00, 5:15, 7:30
3 THE MEDALLION - 11:00, 1:10, 3:20, 5:30, 7:40, 9:50
4 2 FAST 2 FURIOUS - 10:10, 12:30, 2:50, 5:10, 7:30, 9:50
5 S.W.A.T. - 10:10, 12:30, 2:50, 5:10, 7:30, 9:50
6 HOLLYWOOD HOMICIDE - 10:10, 12:50, 2:50, 5:10, 7:30, 9:50
7 BASIC - 10:10, 12:25, 2:40, 4:55, 7:10, 9:40

Metro East

Marcos hway
682-8193-99
682-6280

1	FREDDY VS. JASON
2	2 FAST 2 FURIOUS
3	S.W.A.T.
4	HOLLYWOOD HOMICIDE
5	BASIC
6	THE MEDALLION
7	DADDY DAY CARE
8	1ST TIME

Novaliches

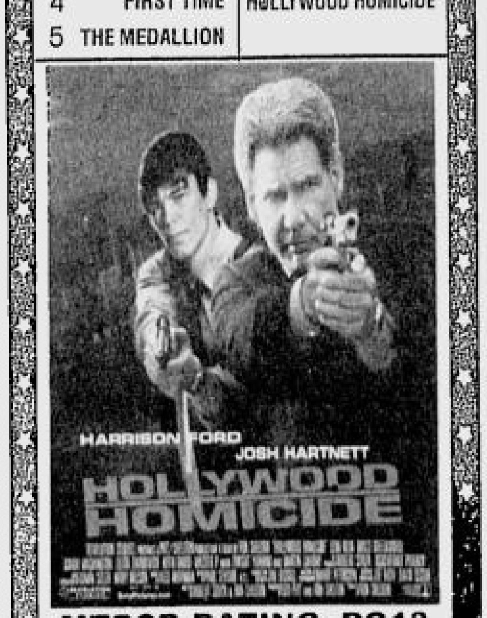
935-3229 / 31

1	THE MEDALLION
2	DADDY DAY CARE
3	FREDDY VS. JASON
4	S.W.A.T.
5	2 FAST 2 FURIOUS
6	HOLLYWOOD HOMICIDE
7	BASIC
8	1ST TIME

Star Mills San Fernando Pampanga (045)875-1027 (045)961-5270	Imus (046)471-8188 / 875-5850
1 SPY KIDS 3D	1 BASIC
2 1ST TIME	2 2 FAST 2 FURIOUS
3 HOLLYWOOD HOMICIDE	3 1ST TIME
4 BEHIND THE GREEN DOOR	4 HOLLYWOOD HOMICIDE
5 2 FAST 2 FURIOUS	5 FREDDY VS. JASON
6 BASIC	6 THE MEDALLION

Bacolod (034)441-0458-59	Iloilo (033)338-0070 to 78
1 S.W.A.T.	1 S.W.A.T.
2 PIRATES OF THE CARRIBEAN	2 INTERSTATE 60
3 INTERSTATE 60	3 WWW.XXX.COM
4 MR. BONES	4 PIRATES OF THE CARRIBEAN
5 KEKA	5 ITALIAN JOB
6 SABIK	6 S.W.A.T.

Sta. Rosa (049)837-0007	Malabon 288-0905-2575
1 2 FAST 2 FURIOUS	1 BASIC
2 HOLLYWOOD HOMICIDE	2 FREDDY VS. JASON
3 ASBOOBS	3 1ST TIME
4 FIRST TIME	4 HOLLYWOOD HOMICIDE
5 THE MEDALLION	



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Masaya ka ba sa iyong trabaho?

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Some ghosts will scare you to death!
The award-winning lead star of this film has died recently in the same mysterious and terrifying circumstances suffered by the character he has portrayed... Ikaw, handa ka rin bang saniban para maniwalang totoo ang multo?

THIS IS THE SCARIEST MOVIE YOU'LL EVER SEE ABOUT REAL GHOSTS
TIYAKING MAY MGA KASAMA PARA MAS MALAKAS ANG SIGAWAN NA TANGING PANGONTRA UPANG DI SAPITIN ANG SINAPIT SA TOTOONG BUHAY NG BIDANG ARTISTA.

MTRCB RATING PG-13

INNER SENSES
異度空間
LESLIE CHEUNG, KARENA LAM
Directed by LO CHI-LEUNG
September 24, Wednesday

THEATER MOVIE GUIDE

MANILA

EASTERN	
MAXIM	CLOSED
MIRAMAR	SEX BOMB / RAMPADORA
ODEON	X-MEN 2
ODEON-2	BUKID AY BASA / KASIBULAN
ROBEN	BOLD STAR
TANDEM-1	SUGAT
TANDEM-2	KATAWAN MO LANGIT KO
TIMES	SPY LEGEND OF CROCODILE

QUEZON CITY

ACT-1	[illegible]
ACT-2	KAYA KO PERO MASAKI
ACT-3	ORIGINAL SI
ACT-4	HANGGANG KAILAN KA PAPATAY
CORONET A	FIRST TIME
CORONET B	A MAN APAR
QUEZON-1	BERTUD NG PUTI
REMAR	X-MEN
REMAR-2	BOLD STA

NOVA MALL - NOVALICHES CINEMA

A	FIRST TIME
B	KALABIT
C	

MANDALUYONG CITY

SHANGRI-LA PLAZA MALL	635-20-79 / 633-78-51 TO 70
CINEMA-1	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
CINEMA-2	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION

CAINTA RIZAL

STA. LUCIA EAST	(681-5401 TO 19)
CINEMA-1	KALABIT
CINEMA-2	ASBOOBS
CINEMA-3	DADDY DAY CARE
CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	S.W.A.T
CINEMA-5 (DTS)	PINAY PIE
CINEMA-6	PIRATES OF THE CARRIBEAN
CINEMA-7	BRAZEN WOMEN
CINEMA-8	WWW.XXX.COM
CINEMA-9 (DTS)	2 FAST 2 FURIOUS
CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	FREDDY VS JASON
CINEMA-11 (SDDS)	HOLLYWOOD HOMICIDE
CINEMA-12	MEDALLION
CINEMA-14	BASIC
CINEMA-15	FIRST TIM

LORES

CINEMA-2	[illegible]
CINEMA-3	KAYA KO PERO MASAKI

NE CINEMAGIC - CABANATUAN

(LAS PINAS)	2 FAST 2 FURIOU
CINEMA-1	FIRST TIME
CINEMA-2	ASBOOBS
CINEMA 4	[illegible]

UNIWIDE COASTAL MALL

(PARANAQUE)	SENSUAL ISLAN
CINEMA-1	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
CINEMA-2	MEN IN BLACK II
CINEMA-4	SELDA

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SALMA HAYEK
JOHNNY DEPP
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3RD MAXIMUM ACTION DAY !
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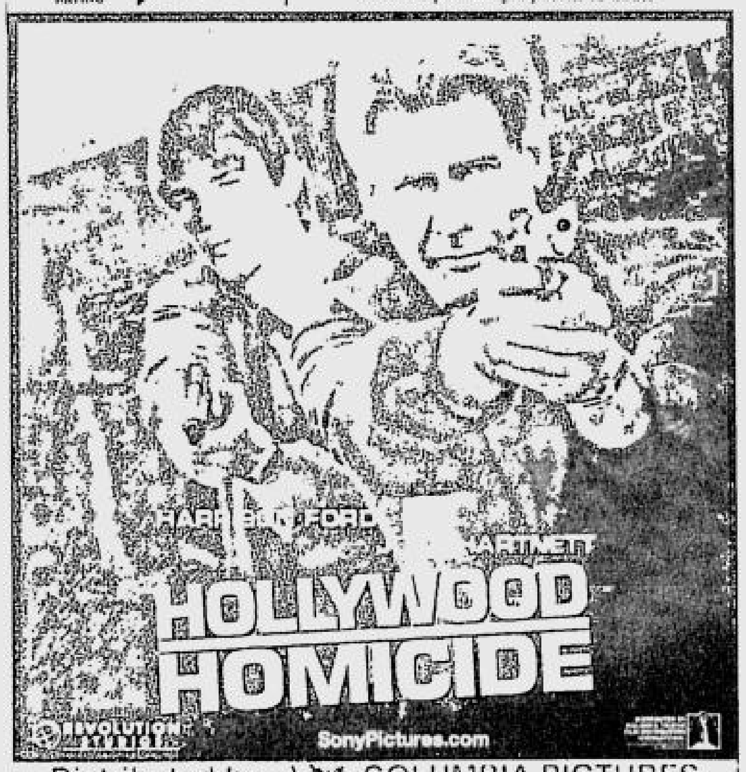

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THEATRE-MALL
GREENHILLS
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CINEMA 1
HOLLYWOOD HOMICIDE
11:30, 2:05, 4:40, 7:15, 10:00
PG13

CINEMA 2
FREDDY VS. JASON
11:30, 1:50, 4:10, 6:30, 8:50
R13

TICKET PRICES & SCREENING TIME SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

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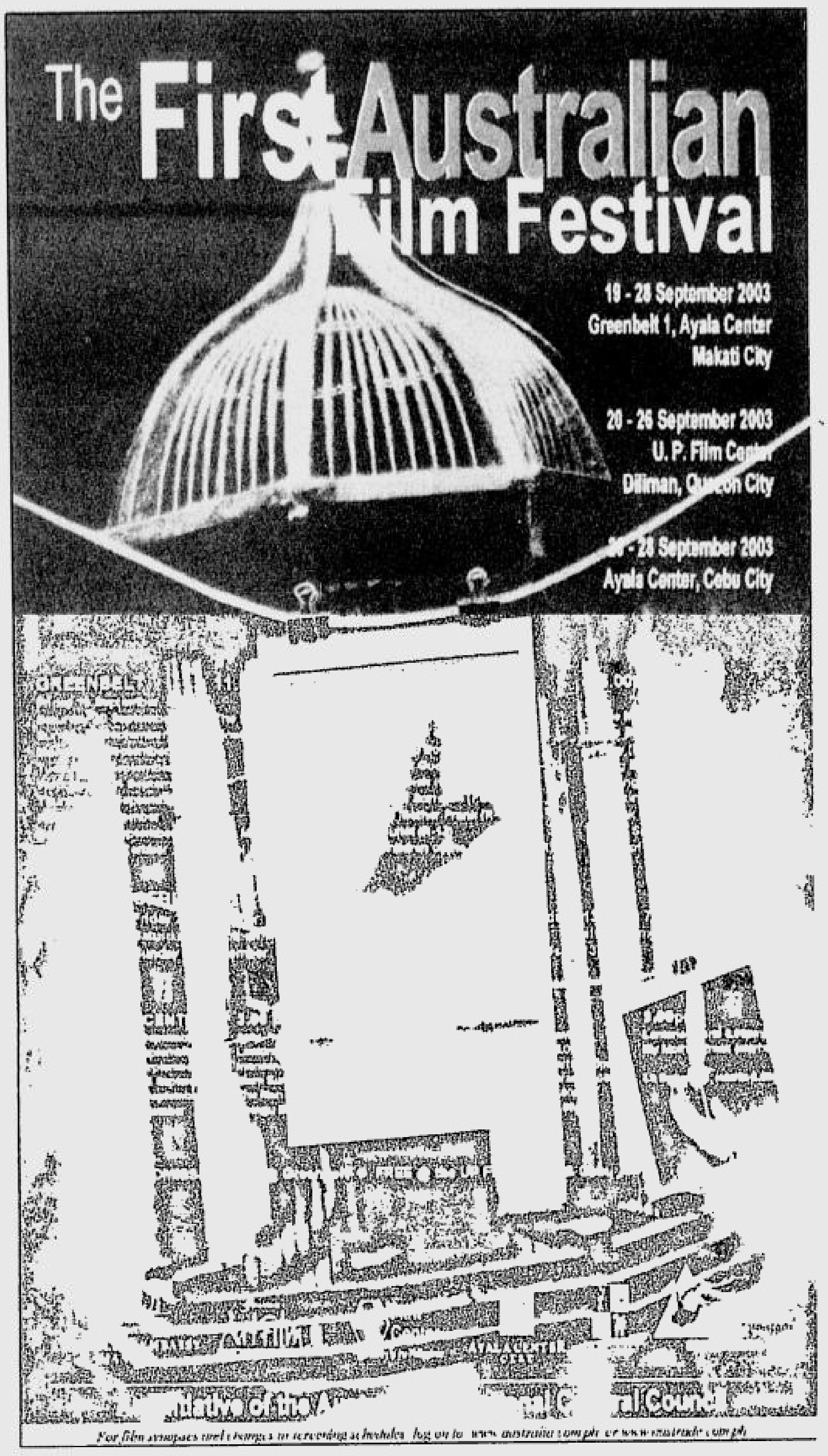
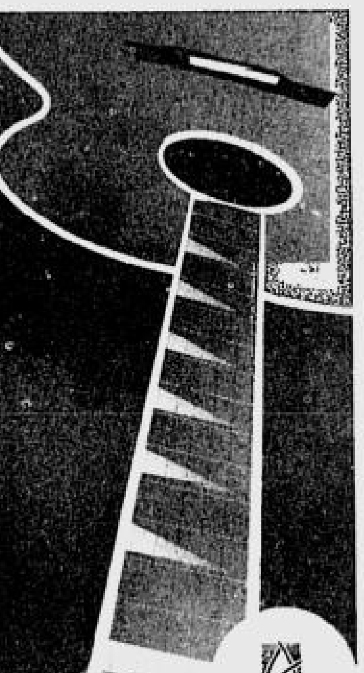


For film synopses and changes in screening schedules, log on to www.australia.com.ph or www.austrade.com.ph



Acoustic Nights at Greenbelt

Paolo Santos
Aug. 27, 7pm
Greenbelt 3 Food Choices
Oct. 1, 7pm
Greenbelt 2

Nyoy Volante with Mannos
Sept. 3, 7pm
Greenbelt 3 Food Choices
Sept. 11, 7pm
Greenbelt 2

Nina
Sept. 23, 7pm
Greenbelt 1 Center Lobby
(in front of Delifrance)

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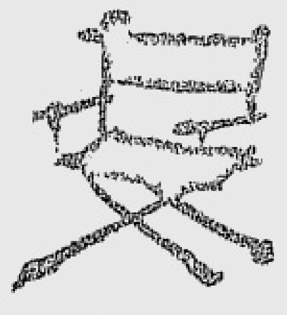


mycinema

Market recovery seen to fuel 4.1% growth in world economy

By Elena R. Torrijos

DUBAI, UAE—The global economy is seen to rise by 4.1 percent next year from a likely 3.2 percent this year following the recovery of key markets in the second half of the current year.

In its September 2003 World Economic Outlook, the International Monetary Fund kept its April growth forecasts on global gross domestic product but noted that upside prospects had improved.

"For the first time in what seems like a very long time, we are reasonably optimistic about seeing a return to normal growth in the global economy, or perhaps even better" Kenneth Rogoff, IMF economic counselor and director of research, said in a press briefing here yesterday.

Overall, GDP world growth would be underpinned by reduced geopolitical uncertainties, low interest rates, a pickup in inventories, projected decline in oil prices and lessening impact of the stock market bubble burst, the IMF said in the report.

Among the advanced countries, the US, in particular, is seen to stand out with expected growth of 2.6 percent this year and 3.9 percent next year.

"In fact, short-term risks for the United States until, say, late 2004, are tilted to the upside," Rogoff said.

The Fund noted that, despite the slowdown since early 2003, Asia-Pacific countries were again set to be the world's fastest growing region this year and would retain its position next year.

The IMF predicted China would lead the pack with 7.5 percent GDP growth this year and next year.

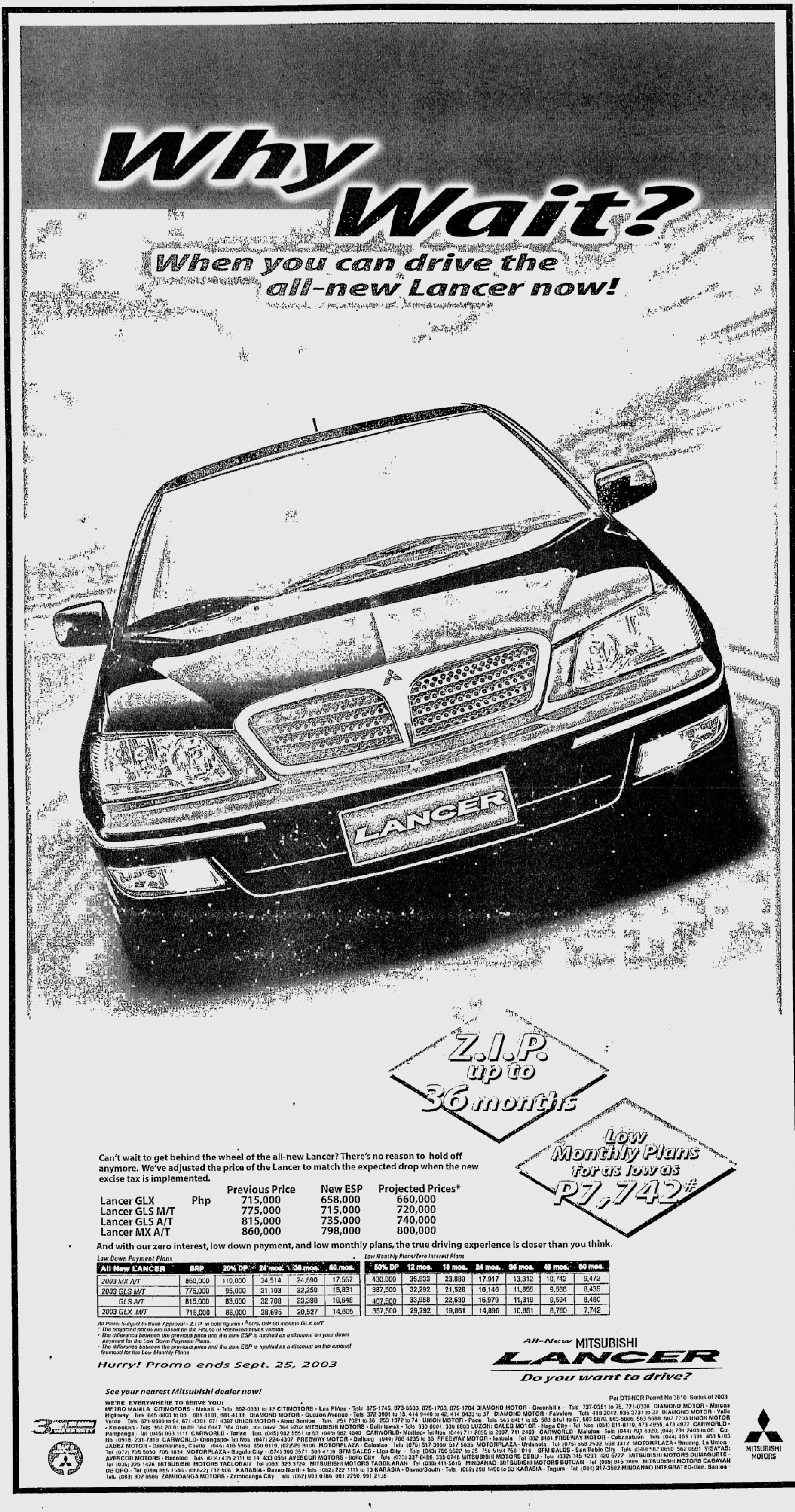
Regarding the Philippines, the IMF projected that the country's GDP would grow at four percent for both 2003 and 2004, lower than expected growth of Malaysia and Thailand but better or the same as Indonesia.

The IMF, however, warned that while market pressures have abated in the Philippines "strong efforts are needed to achieve the balanced budget target even by 2009, and secure a more rapid disposal of banks' NPLs (nonperforming loans)."

On other markets, the IMF raised its forecast on Japan's GDP growth by 1.2 percentage points to two percent this year and by 0.4 percentage points to 1.4 percent next year given the country's recent strong growth.

The Fund was bearish on Europe's economic performance, cutting its projections of growth in Germany, France and Italy to zero, 0.5 percent, and 0.4 percent this year and to 1.5 percent, 1.7 percent and 1.4 percent next year, respectively.

Back to the global economic front, the IMF said that the likelihood of worst-case scenarios has been much reduced since April given the quick end to the Iraq war, but key concerns remained.



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Lancer GLS A/T		815,000	735,000	740,000
Lancer MX A/T		860,000	798,000	800,000

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2003 GLS M/T	775,000	95,000	31,103	22,250	15,831
GLS A/T	815,000	83,000	32,708	23,398	16,648
2003 GLX M/T	715,000	86,000	28,695	20,527	14,605

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387,500	32,292	21,528	16,146	11,855	9,566	8,435
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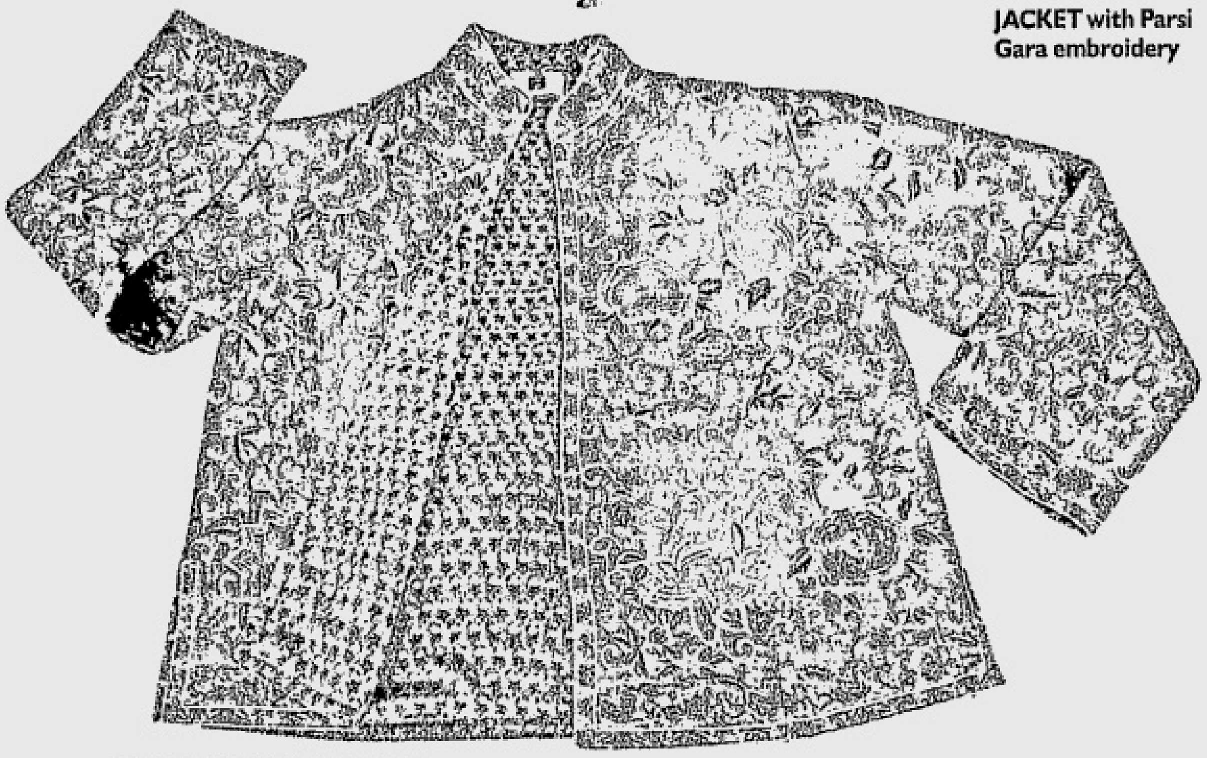
Editor Chelo Banal-Formoso

Shangri-La Plaza
Streetscape Rhythm
•Ntwine, 9:30 pm, Friday, Sept. 19
•Brand New Funk, 9:30 pm, Saturday, Sept. 20



JACKET with Parsi Gara embroidery

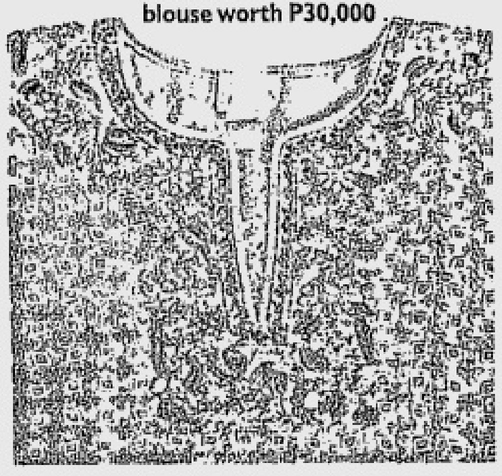
Indian art reborn

Text by Alex Y. Vergara
Photos by Jim Guiao Punzalan

THEY'RE colorful, intricate, unique and a tad expensive. These best describe Indian designer Bina Modi's collection of women's tops, bottoms, wraps and even body bags hand-embroidered in the Chikankari and the Parsi Gara methods, two traditional but dying Indian art forms she helped revive five years ago.

INDIAN/ C2

INTRICATE embroidery on a blouse worth P30,000



Today is the last day of the private sale of Indian designer Bina Modi's hand-embroidered creations

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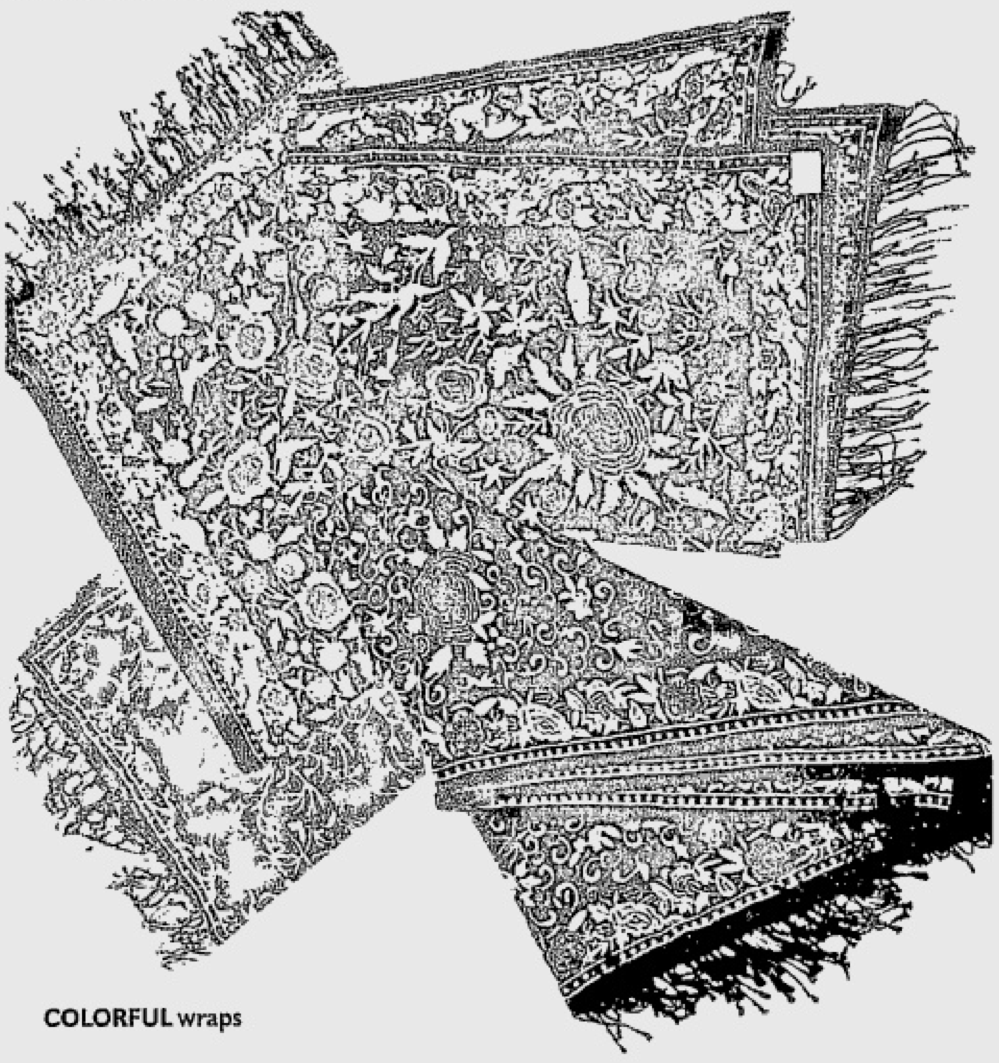


COLORFUL wraps

Indian art reborn

From page C1

The Asia Society Philippine Foundation recently launched its "India on my Mind Series," a string of events that focuses on the country's rich culture, by showcasing Modi's pieces. Interested buyers may look over her creations today at her suite at the Peninsula Manila Hotel from 10:30 a.m. to 7 p.m.

"Parsi Gara is a style of embroidery that came from China sometime in the 16th century," says the New Delhi-based Modi. This explains why it works well with blouses with Mandarin collars and East Asian silhouettes. The Chikankari is indigenous to India, and is set apart from Parsi Gara by finer stitching.

Because of the effort involved in designing and manufacturing, it takes Modi and her team of sewers and embroiderers almost 10 days to finish a particular piece. Importers need to order at least three months in advance. This explains why businessmen and designers are reluctant to revive the two forms of embroidery.

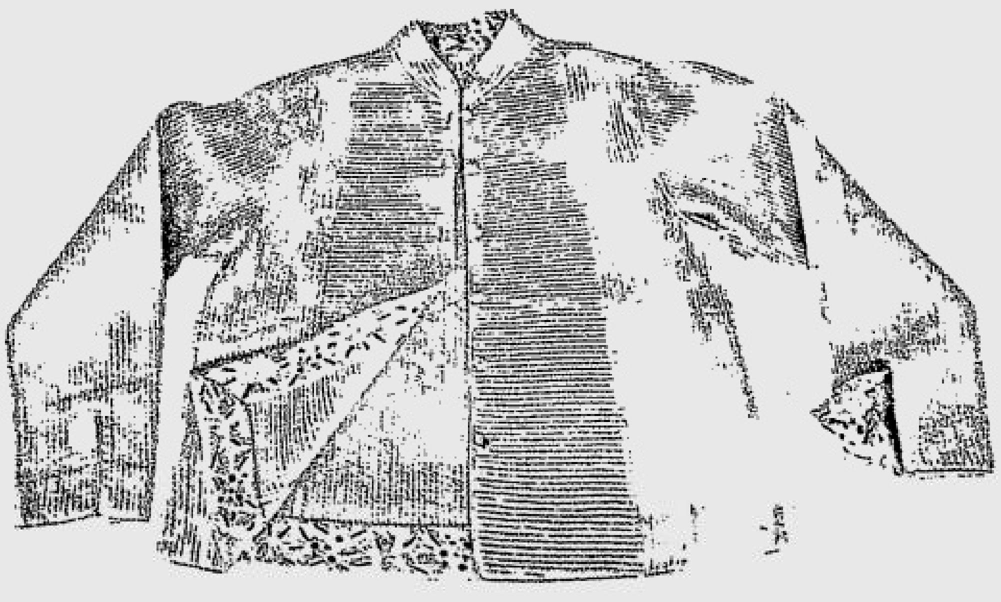
Before India completely lost these two art forms, Modi had several expert embroiderers study and relearn Chikankari and Parsi Gara. They were tasked to pass down their knowledge to lesser-skilled colleagues. Modi has provided employment to 200 sewers and embroiderers to date. For some reason, women are more adept at doing Chikankari, while men excel at Parsi Gara.

Modi only uses natural fabrics such as silk and chiffon. She and her team begin the tedious process by first dying the fabric. Before they can choose the right combination of colors, they mark and trace her designs on the fabric. After being embroidered, the fabric is then dry-cleaned and stitched together into a single piece.

"The stitching is basically the same," says Modi. "It's the way the garment is put together—from the cut to the way the colors are combined—that makes each piece different and one-of-a-kind."

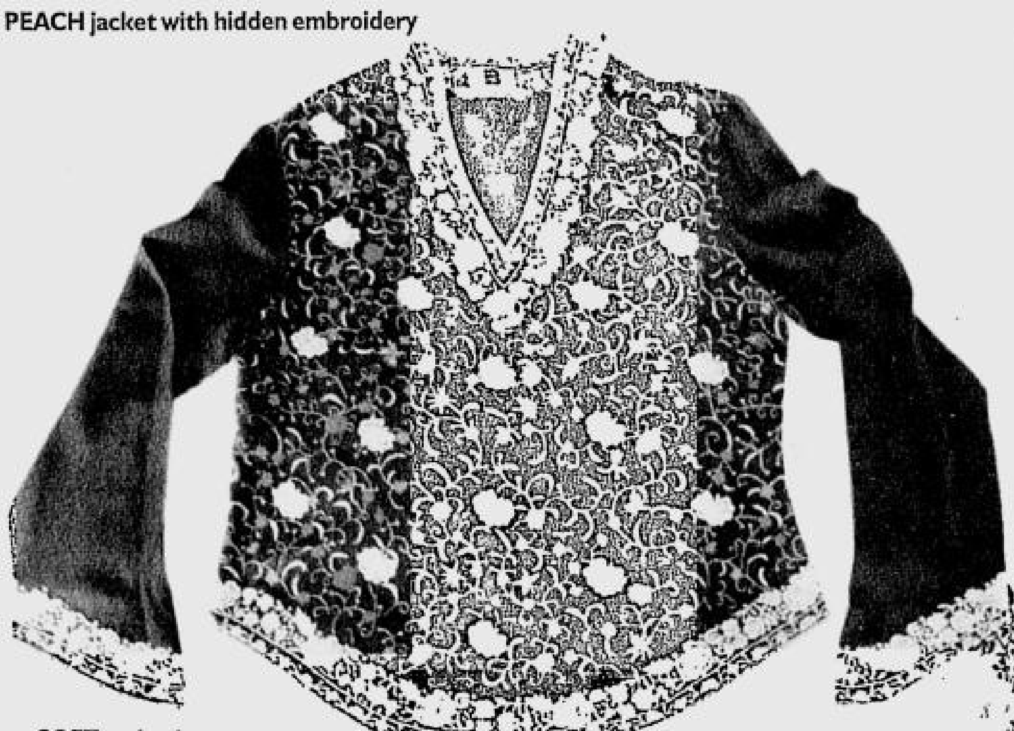
E-mail the author at avergara@inquirer.com.ph

SEE-THROUGH with complementary colors

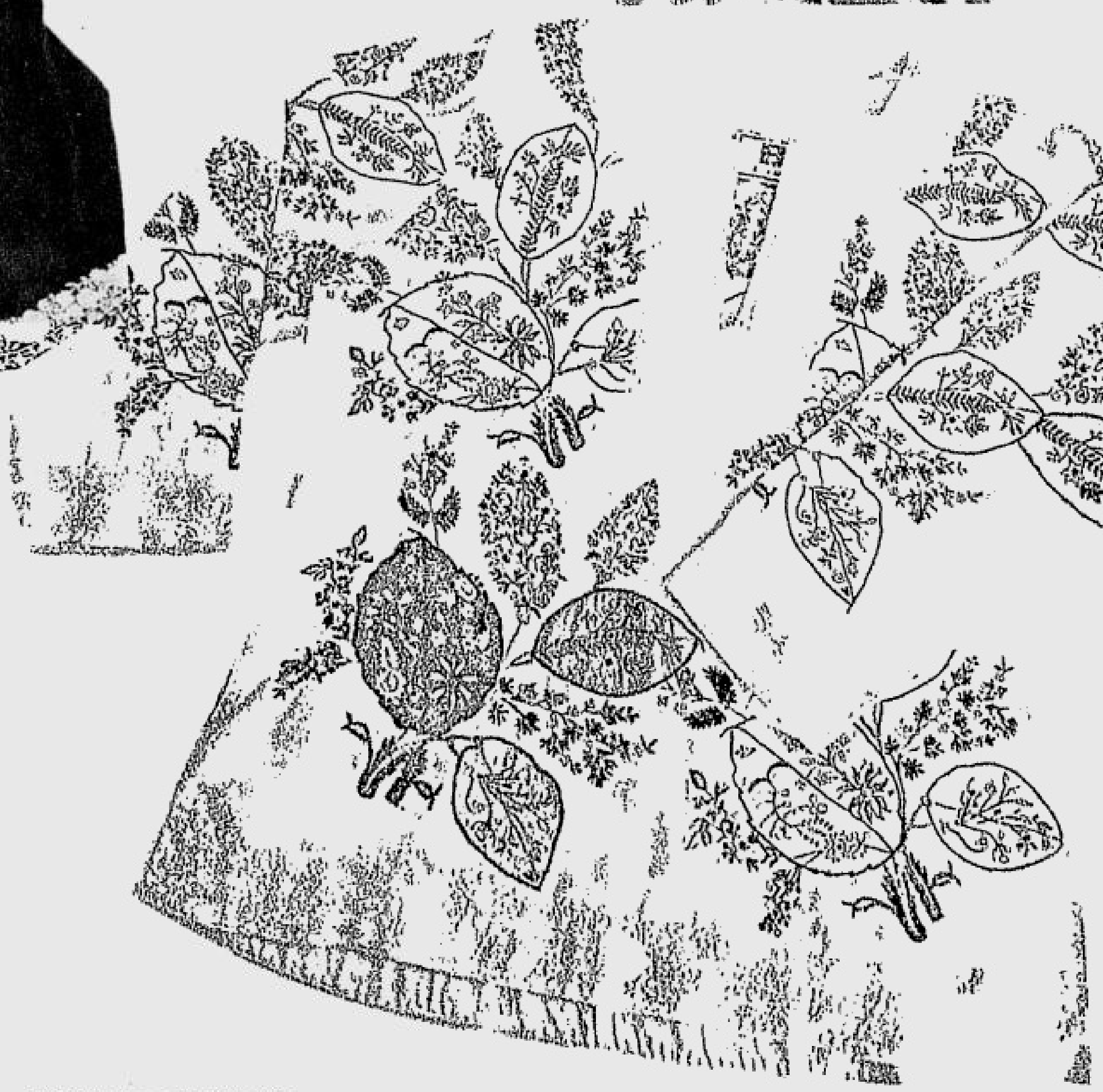


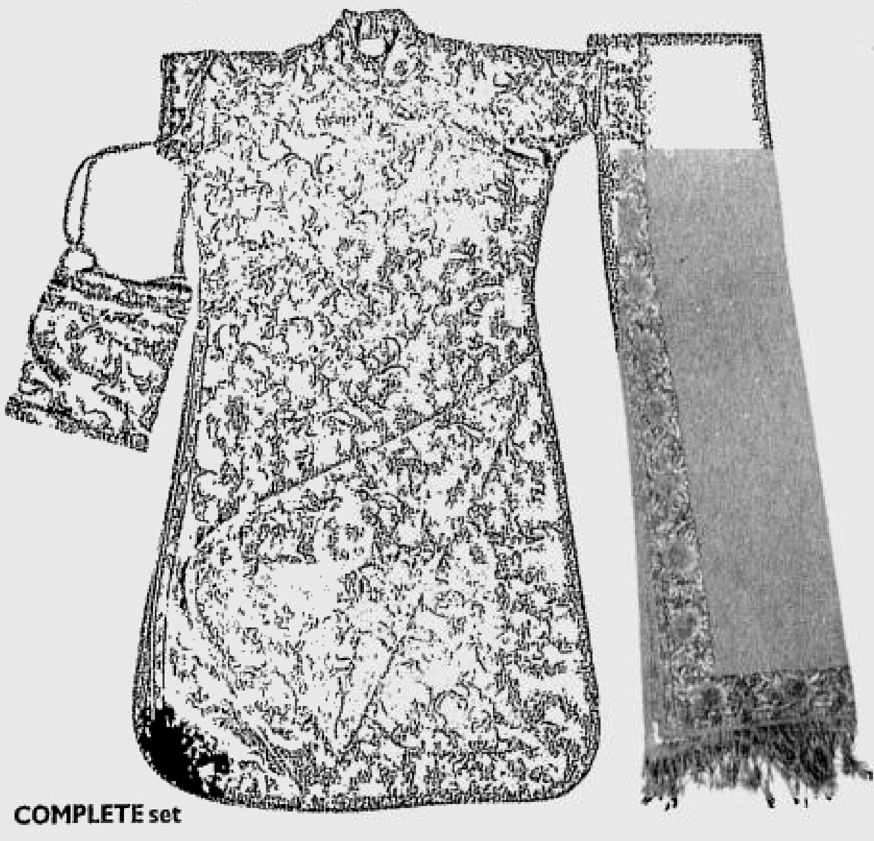
PEACH jacket with hidden embroidery

INDIAN designer Bina Modi



SOFT and unique





KURTA given a modern spin

COMPLETE set

'Brits and Brands' celebrates RP-UK ties

ALFRED Dunhill, one of the leading British menswear brands in the world, participated in Brits and Brands, a special celebration of Philippine-British ties.

The affair, hosted by British Ambassador to the Philippines Paul Dimond, recognized the best retail brands of the United Kingdom that have found their niche in the Philippine market.

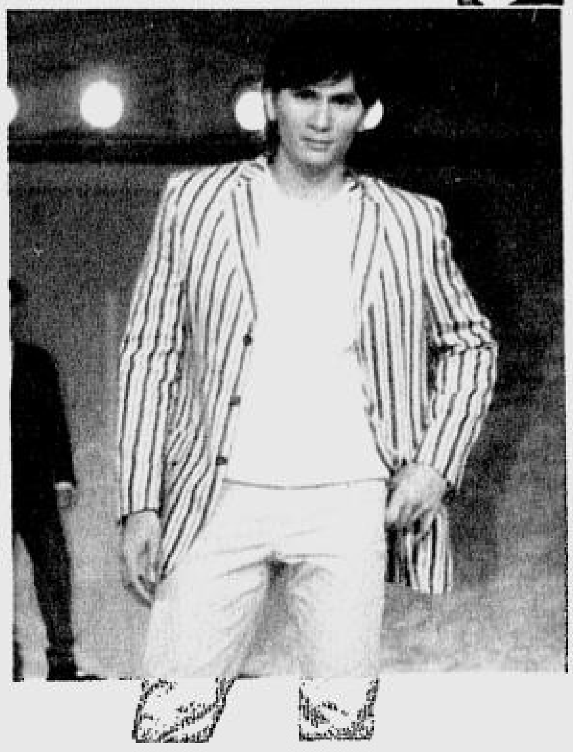
Dunhill showcased the finest of men's casual and business style clothes in a fashion show featuring its Holiday collection. During the show, SPEX's and British Chamber of Commerce director Mike Woutton, Jones Lang La Salle's country manager and British Chamber of Commerce director Jeremy Smith and Unilever general manager for Corporate Development Chito Macapagal joined Dimond on stage.

Other guests included Ambassador Bienvenido R. Tantoco Sr., chair of Rustan's Group of Companies, Rustan's Commercial Corp. president Bienvenido R. Tantoco Jr., Rustan's Wines and Spirits president Victor U. Valbuena, Store Specialists Inc. EVP Anton Huang, and Planters Bank and PBBC chair Ambassador Jesus Tambunting.

Dunhill is exclusively available in Rustan's Makati, Shangri-La Plaza and Harrison Plaza.

TABAQUERIA de Filipinas sales and marketing manager Roman Ripou, world champion bowler Paulo Valdez, Rustan's in-house designer Stef Sarmiento, Rustan's wines and spirits president Victor Valbuena

AMBASSADOR Paul Dimond in a charcoal three-button shirt under a baby blue round neck knit shirt with dark gray scarf, all from Dunhill.



MODEL wearing a brown deckchair stripe linen three-button jacket over a taupe merino V-neck slipover and khaki linen hopsack seamless trousers, all from Dunhill.

ANTON Huang

JEREMY Smith, British Chamber of Commerce director

A MODEL in Dunhill

BANGON NGAYON

Promo Period: July 1- October 18, 2003

Mag-Nestlé Almusal GISING MILYONARYO 2

120 KATAO, NAGSALU-SALO SA ₱3 MILLION!

₱17.5 Million pa ang ipamimigay!

Nagwagi ng tig-₱25,000 ang 120 katao sa 1st draw ng Mag-Nestlé Almusal Gising Milyonaryo 2 Raffle Promo. Pero hindi pa huli ang lahat! May nakalaan pang ₱17.5 million para sa 2nd at grand draw winners. Basahin ang sumusunod para makahabol:

HOW TO JOIN:

1. Write your name, address, signature, and the promo title, "MAG-NESTLÉ ALMUSAL, GISING MILYONARYO 2," on a genuine label, foil, and boxtop of participating Nestlé products. Entries should be clean and at least 3/4 of its original size. Entries which do not conform to the requirements and mechanics of the promo shall be automatically disqualified.

2. Drop entries in designated drop boxes found in supermarkets and groceries nationwide. In order to qualify, entries must be dropped in the draw area where the residence of the participant is located as written in the entries. All entries that are dropped in draw areas outside of a participant's residence as indicated in the entries shall be automatically disqualified.

3. Entries received after cut-off date and non-winning entries will qualify for the succeeding draws including the grand draw.

4. A consumer may win only once in every draw.

5. Winners will officially be notified via mail, with instructions on how to claim their prizes. Winners will only be considered as official once they receive their notification letters. Prizes not claimed within 60 days after receipt of letter will be forfeited upon approval of BFAD.

6. The organizer's decision, in concurrence with the BFAD, is FINAL.

7. Schedule of draws, areas, deadline of entries, & prizes are as follows:

Draw Dates	Deadline of Entries	Area	No. of Winners	Prize (Tax-free)
2nd Preliminary Draw				
Sept. 3	Aug. 27	West Visayas	1	₱ 500,000 each
Sept. 7	Aug. 31	East Visayas	1	
Sept. 10	Sept. 3	South Mindanao	1	
Sept. 13	Sept. 6	North Mindanao	1	
Sept. 18	Sept. 11	North Luzon	1	
Sept. 18	Sept. 11	Central Luzon	1	
Sept. 18	Sept. 11	South Luzon 1	1	
Sept. 18	Sept. 11	South Luzon 2	1	
Sept. 21	Sept. 14	GMA	3	
Grand Draw				
October 18	October 4	GMA	4	₱ 1,000,000 each
		North Luzon	1	
		Central Luzon	1	
		South Luzon 1	1	
		South Luzon 2	1	
		East Visayas	1	
		West Visayas	1	
		North Mindanao	1	
		South Mindanao	1	

8. Employees of Nestlé Philippines, Inc., its advertising and promotional agencies, packaging suppliers, service contractors, distributors, and their relatives up to the second degree of consanguinity and affinity are automatically disqualified to join the promotion.

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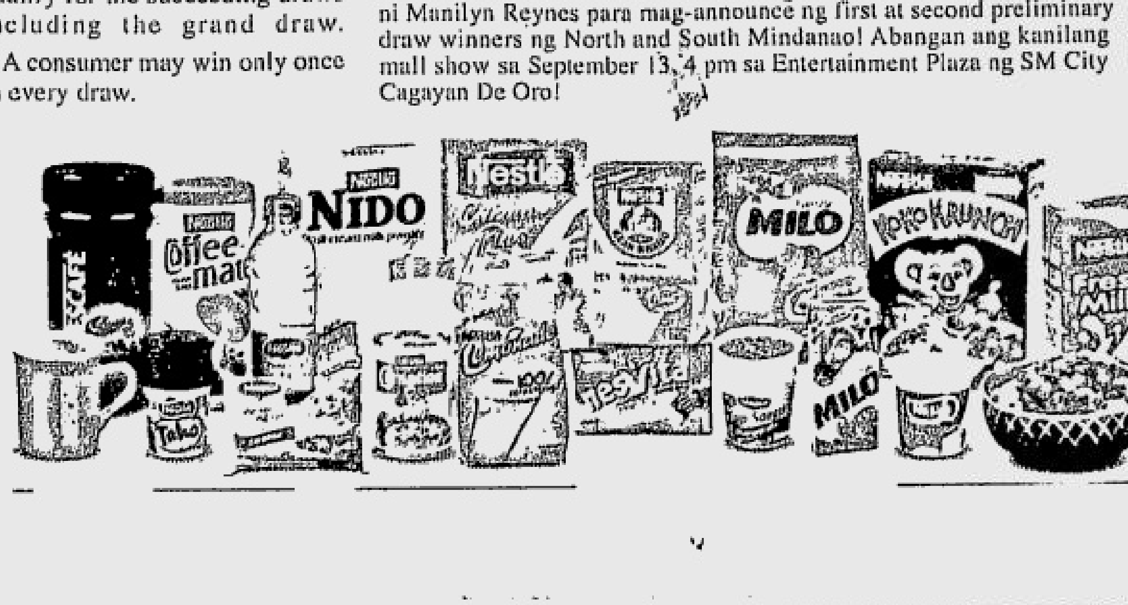
Si Marvin Agustin at Jody Stamaria na!

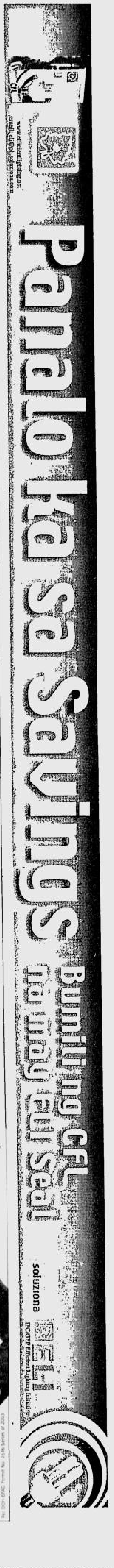
Oo, sila na nga! Sina Marvin at Jody, kasama si Ruby Rodriguez ang maghahatid ng magandang balita sa mga winners ng first and second preliminary draw ng Mag-Nestlé Almusal Gising Milyonaryo 2. Abangan sila sa mall shows na gaganapin ng alas-4 ng hapon sa Entertainment Plaza ng SM City Cebu on September 7, at SM City North Edsa on September 21!

Roxanne Barcelo at Biboy Ramirez naman ang magpapa-Click sa CDO!

Ang dalawang sikat na stars ng teen TV show na Click ay sasamahan ni Manilyn Reynes para mag-announce ng first at second preliminary draw winners ng North and South Mindanao! Abangan ang kanilang mall show sa September 13, 4 pm sa Entertainment Plaza ng SM City Cagayan De Oro!

"MAG-NESTLÉ ALMUSAL NA! BAKA ISA KA NA SA MGA MAGIGING MILYONARYO!"

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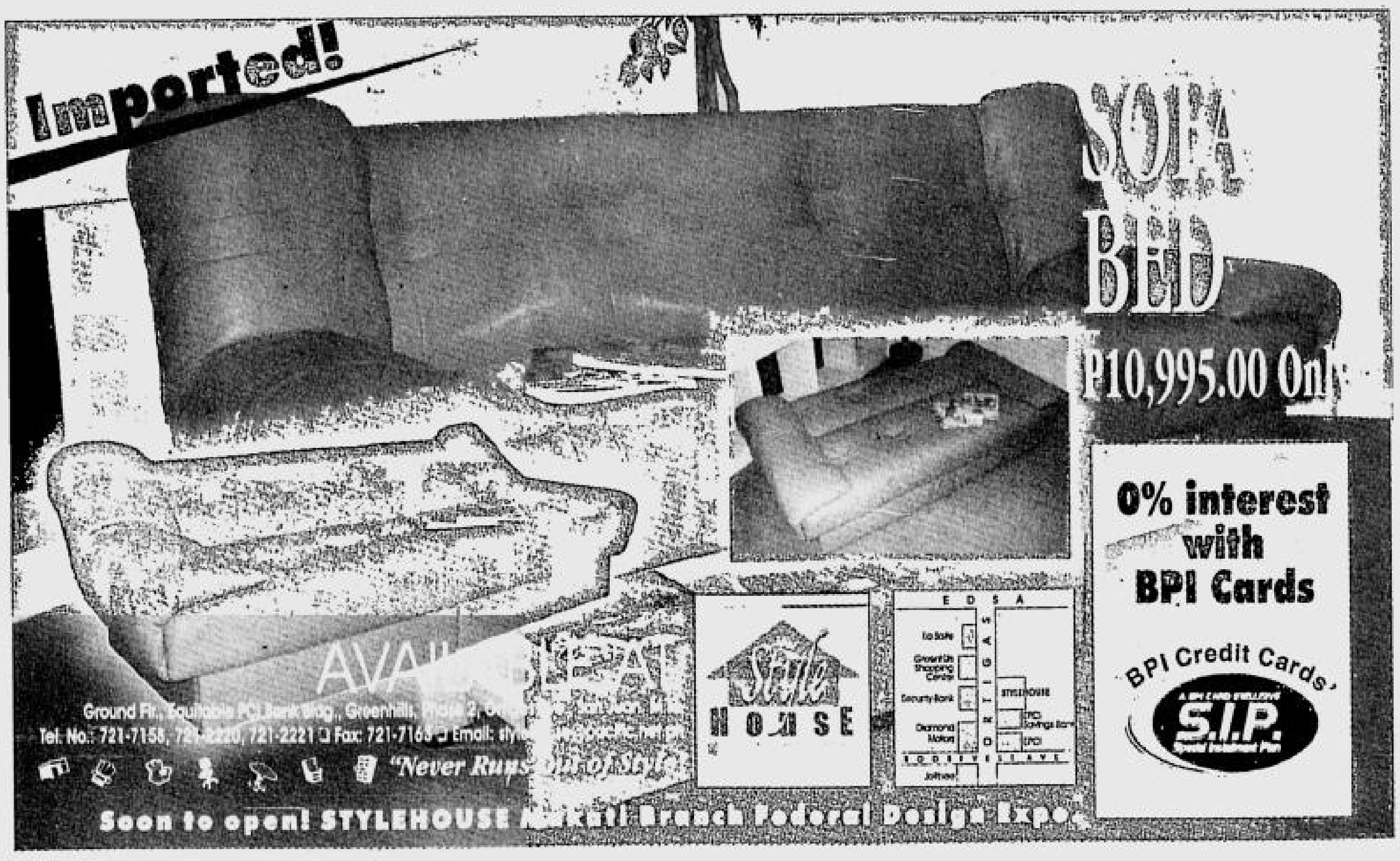
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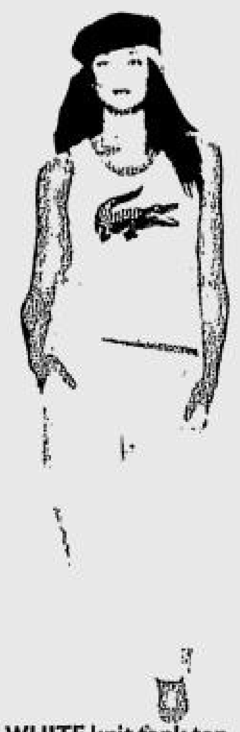
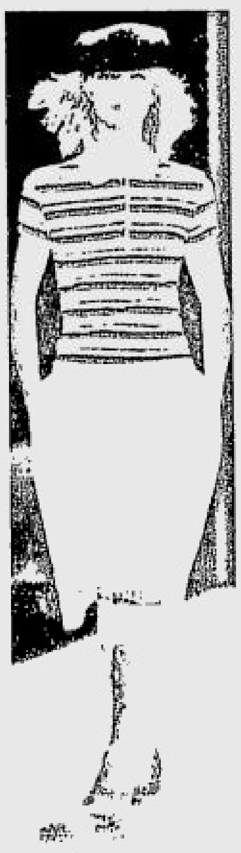
On the ramp in New York



WHITE knit tank top over yellow ankle pants by Lacoste AP

MODEL wears a deck stripe boy suit as she walks the runway at the Diane von Furstenberg spring fashion show. REUTERS



LACOSTE AP

LACOSTE AP

DIANE Von Furstenberg REUTERS

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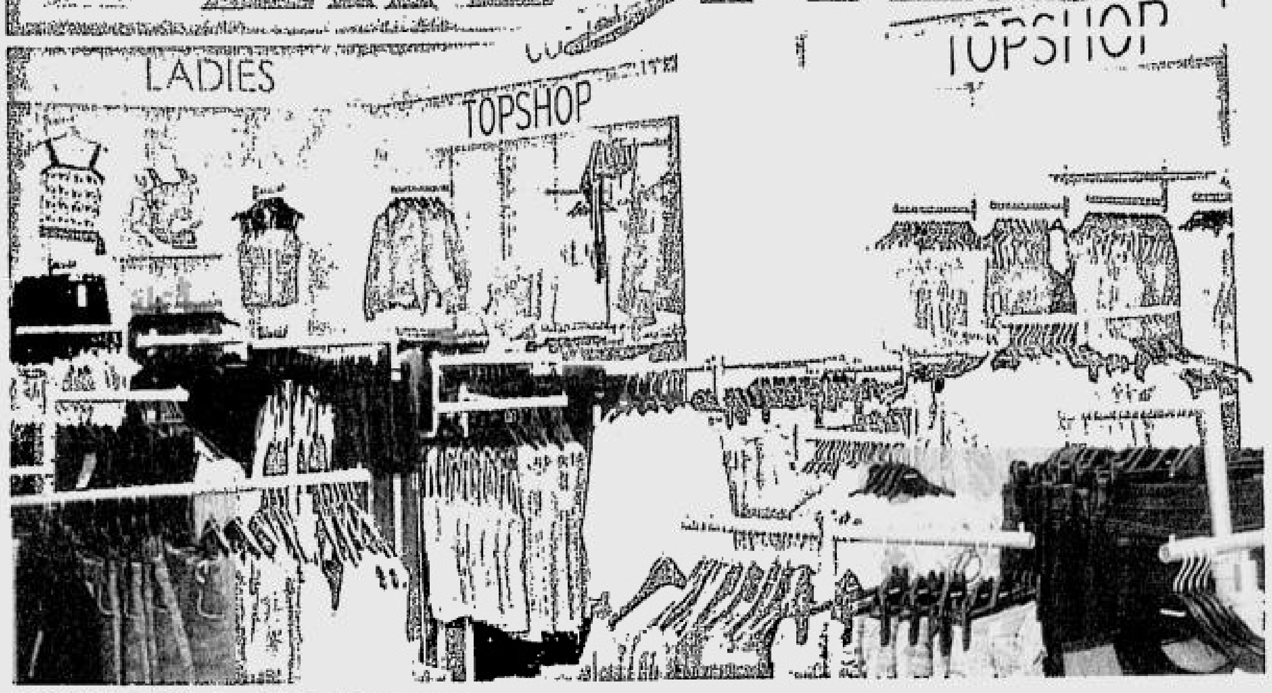

HOT UK label Topshop finds a home at the renovated RDS

Color-coded shopping experience

AFTER MONTHS of renovation, Robinsons Department Store (RDS) is attracting more shoppers to its flagship branch at Robinsons Galleria.

In terms of interiors, "RDS is now brighter," says RDS general manager Graham Coates. Aesthetic improvements in lighting, flooring and ceiling designs lend a chirpier ambiance and two floors swathed in light make for an airy feel.

RDS officials considered the most important factor in the business when they undertook the renovation—customer comfort and convenience. This resulted in a simpler and better circulation flow that allows shoppers to navigate from one section to another without the hassles and without the mazes.

Major sections are easily identifiable with new signages, whose high-level graphics on pastel backgrounds are easy on the eyes. "We carefully handpicked colors to distinguish one section from another," says Hope Gokongwei-Tang, RDS AVP for merchandising. This clever color coding promises to make shopping a breeze.

Better departmental blocking was likewise implemented. Shelves were placed strategically not just for easy customer access but to prevent unnecessary obstructions as well, according to Coates. There are also newly-designed display tables, racks and shelves that combine form and function.

RDS commissioned one of the world's top design firms, Zebra Designs, to oversee the refurbishment of the Galleria branch. The United Kingdom-based company is known for its work for the Arcadia Group's Topshop, Topman, Miss Selfridge, Dorothy Perkins and Warehouse; Calvin Klein boutiques; Debenhams stores; and other retail and leisure shops in Europe and Asia.

COLOR-CODED/ D3

RDS operations manager Ruth Fucoy (left) at the new home furnishing section

BRIGHTER and better after the facelift

Real People. True Stories.

"I used to scuba dive a lot and that made my skin drier and full of freckles. Then Imedeen came along. Now, my skin feels softer with hardly any blemishes!"

Ereka Therese Gutierrez,
30, Full-time housewife and mom

She may no longer be scuba-diving, but Therese -- a dedicated housewife and mother of three -- remains an active, well-rounded woman. Moreover, despite having to keep a happy home while dabbling in interior design and doing make-overs for special events, she's able to maintain a youthful look.

That's because her skincare includes Imedeen.

Imedeen is a skin care tablet that helps your skin bind essential moisture by nourishing its inner layers. "With Imedeen, the effects of being out in the sun and sea were greatly minimized. My skin's moisture balance improved, making it less dry. Even my freckles are hardly visible now!"

And Therese's husband has noticed, constantly complimenting his wife about her refreshing glow. Reveals Therese, "He says I'm even more attractive now and I think it's because I discovered Imedeen."
Imedeen. The Skin Care Tablet.

Ultrasound images of the skin structure: denser structure implies better support and ability to hold moisture

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MAKATI	
PC Corner - Glorietta 2	8930630
Complink Marketing - Park Square 1	8931489
Villman Computers Systems - Ayala Ave.	8922222
Villman Computers Systems - Paseo	8151986
Villman Computers Systems - Arnaiz	8434371
MANDALUYONG	
ARX Computer Center - Shangrila Edsa	6350068 to 69
PC Corner - Shaw Blvd.	5355231
PC Corner - SM Megamall	6318786
Complink Marketing - Shangrila Edsa	6374444
Complink Marketing - SM Megamall	6373988
Villman - SM Megamall	6830532 to 33
LAS PIÑAS	
PC Corner - Zapote	7724641
PC Corner - SM South Mall	7223416
E.F. Hands-On Computer - Pamplonas	8738866
Complink Marketing - SM Southmall	8019908
PARAÑAQUE	
ARX Computer Center - SM Super Center	8208694
Complink Marketing - Citimall	5129708
RVChanco Computers - BF Homes	8075298
CAVITE	
Complink Marketing - SM Cavite	(046) 4177761 to 63
AlphaStike Computer Center - Dasmariñas	
RCA Computer Sales and Services - Imus	(046) 5150795
Matcom Trading Company - Rosario	(046) 4380652
LAGUNA	
Tomtronics - San Pedro	(049) 8086996
RCA Computer Sales and Services - Calamba	(049) 8346368
QUEZON	
RCA Computer Sales and Services - Lucena	(042) 6603899

BICOL	
RCA Computer Sales and Services - Naga	(054) 8118483
PAMPANGA	
PCDG - Angeles City	(045) 8885614
PANGASINAN	
PCDG - Dagupan	(075) 5152880
Maya Emporium - Dagupan	(075) 5157969
LA UNION	
PC4Me Computer Shop - San Fernando	(072) 8882249
BAGUIO	
PCDG - Abanao Square Mall	(074) 4463262
PCKing Computer & Printing Center - Bombay Bazar	(074) 4445540
PC Corner - Session Rd.	
1:23 Computer and Printing Center - Session Rd.	(074) 4464830
Laser Marketing - Mabini	(074) 4425854
Laser Marketing - Central Mall	(074) 4449810
CEBU	
Compumasters - Cebu City	(032) 4120955 to 59
NG KHAI Development Corporation - Mandaue	(032) 3462926
NG KHAI Development Corporation - Ayala Center	(032) 2325355
Andersons PC - Osmeña	(032) 2541430
CBX - Cebu City	(032) 2530602
CBX - Cebu City	(032) 2314369
Electroworld Cebu- SM Branch - SM City	(032) 3452787 to 89
Electroworld Cebu- Ayala Branch - Ayala Center	(032) 3452787 to 89
BACOLOD	
Jegabytes Computer Center - Libertad-Margarita Ext.	(034) 4337763
Jegabytes Computer Center - Robinson's Place	(034) 4412880
BCG Computers - Yap Compound	(034) 4342527 to 32
ILOILO	
Electroworld Iloilo - SM City	(033) 3204832 telefax
DAVAO	
Electroworld Davao - SM City	(082) 2210119 telefax
Electroworld Davao - R. Magsaysay	(082) 2210119
Computer World Davao - A. Bonifacio	(082) 2213753
Digital Interface - J. P. Rizal Ave.	(082) 2211256
Columbia Davao - Manuel Roxas	(082) 2211475

** Prices may vary for Visayas & Mindanao
They are also subject to change without prior notice
***Lap top packages include modem & LAN

Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 1782, Series of 2003.

PLDT 75 THINK ahead

In cooperation with the biggest names in the PC industry:
Microsoft NEO Canon intel. AOC citibank

PLDT

PRINTED green tee (P1,250), green pants (P2,450) and beige mini with scarf belt (P1,950)

FLAMINGO blouse (P1,650) and striped bias skirt (P1,950)

American label marks the spot

XOXO captures the vibrant and creative spirit of youth

Text by Cheche V. Moral
Photos by Chito Vecina

HUGS and kisses. That, supposedly, is what XOXO means. Sentimental. Romantic. Schmaltzy. Um, maybe a tad cloying.

Translated into fashion, however, XOXO doesn't only mean nice and sweet. It can also be playful, sexy, flirty or even coquettish. It can be active and sporty, or quirky and funky. The American label captures the vibrant and creative spirit of youth dead-on that, barely three months since XOXO was brought by Rustan's to our shores, urban fashionistas just couldn't get enough of its femininely hip and ultramodern clothes.

For this fall, XOXO dishes out 10 collections to indulge the varied tastes of the young and the young at heart.

Pieces spiced with oriental flavor fall under the Shanghai collection, while warm reds and browns saturate Bali with very feminine tops and dresses. Suede and cord pants and jackets also complement the now quickly turning nippy weather.

Hood chic goes fly-girl hip with Palladium's tracksuits and varsity jersey looks. Girls are sure to get psychedelic high in an updated eponymous collection. Day Tripper features form-fitting jumpsuits and ribbed sweaters. Or, go loco with bold stripes and patterns in Geometrics, which line also highlights eyelet lace-up detailing on both tops and bottoms.

Jungle-wild prints in predominant blacks and browns are served up in Animal Magnetism while some patchwork prints, crochet, embroidery and lace trim accents summon every girl to the Coconut collection. Naughty and sporty tube, cropped and hoodie tops dominate Sedona as military chic lives on in Camo Chic with funky-printed, embossed and air-brushed tees. Mix and match and one's bound to end up on the trendy stack.

With a dizzying mélange of styles, season after season, XOXO-philes know that getting down to looking fab is just as fun and exciting as embracing and smooching around.

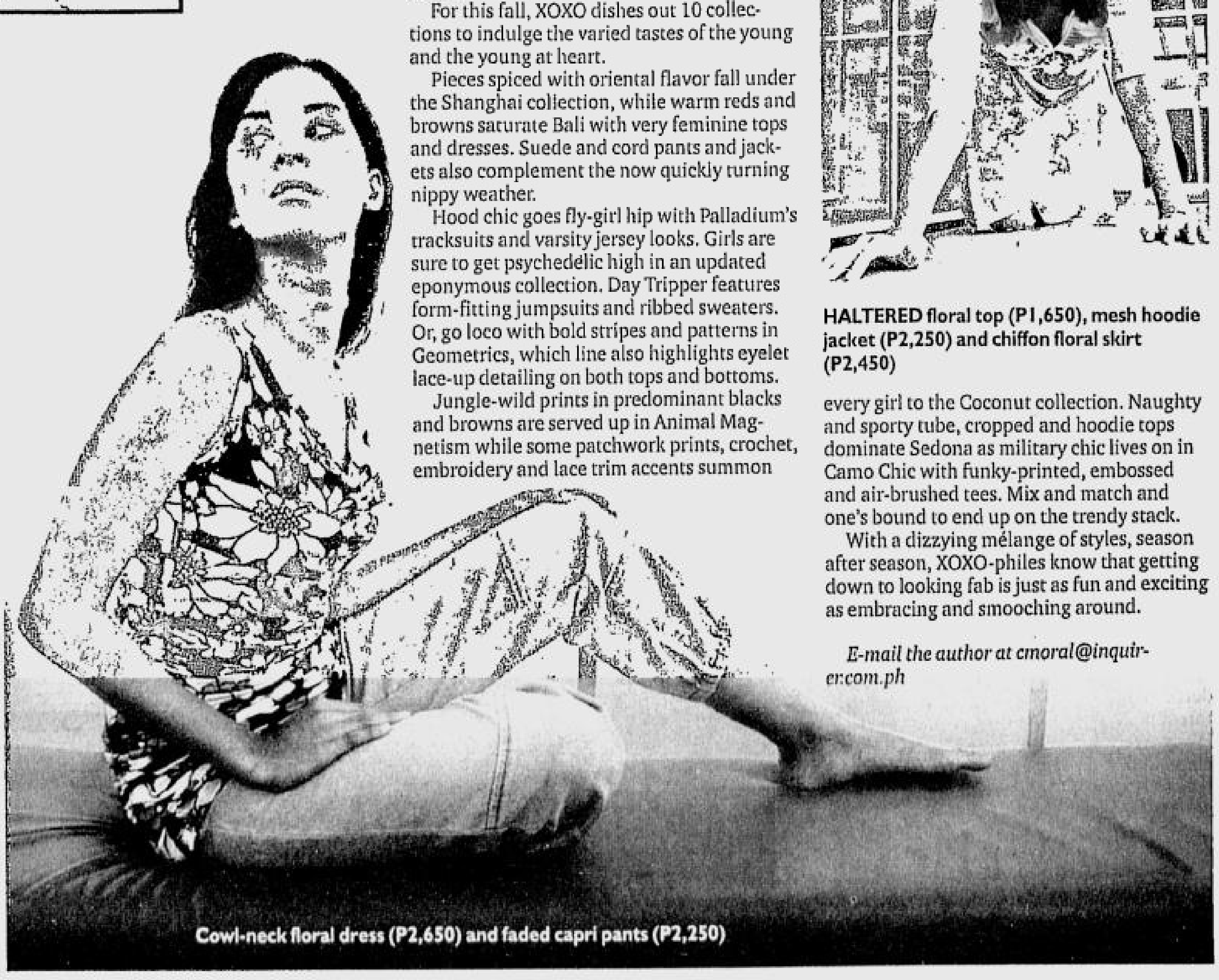
E-mail the author at cmoral@inquirer.com.ph

STYLING: STEPH SARMIENTO
MAKEUP: MIKEE RAYMUNDO FOR MAC
MODEL: BIANCA GONZALES
ALL CLOTHES BY XOXO, EXCLUSIVELY AVAILABLE AT U, 4/F RUSTAN'S MAKATI

BALI wraparound dress (P2,950) and Capri pants (P1,950)

HALTERED floral top (P1,650), mesh hoodie jacket (P2,250) and chiffon floral skirt (P2,450)

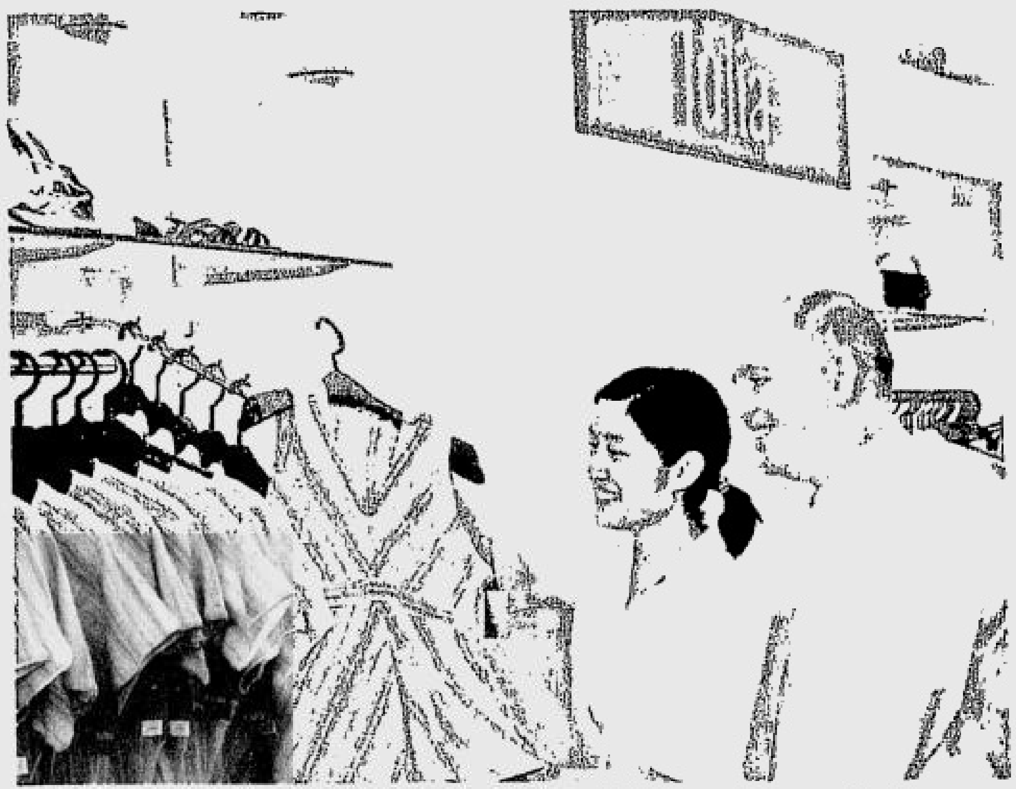
STRIPED cowl-neck top (P1,950) and striped flared pants (P2,250)



Cowl-neck floral dress (P2,650) and faded capri pants (P2,250)

CODE PINK. The second level features a wide range of teen apparel, including RDS' exclusive house brand, Liberté.

RDS at Robinsons Galleria is sporting a new look, one that complements the mix of imported and local labels



RDS AVP for merchandising Hope Gokongwei-Tang and RDS general manager Graham Coates check out the merchandise at Julia, another exclusive house brand.

Color-coded shopping experience

From page D1

Here may be found RDS' exclusive house brands like Liberté and Julia for women and G Company, All About Kids and B+ Active for kids.

RDS Galleria can now also be easily accessed through an additional entrance at the East Wing in the first level.

Everyone is invited to join in the grand relaunch celebration and raffle promotion. Up for grabs until Nov. 12 are a brand-new Toyota Vios and up to P150,000 worth of gift certificates.

VISUAL merchandising manager Dennis Navato

The heart of the matter

IT'S all about romance as the House of Louis Vuitton presents a new addition to its elegant jewelry line, the Heart Collection.

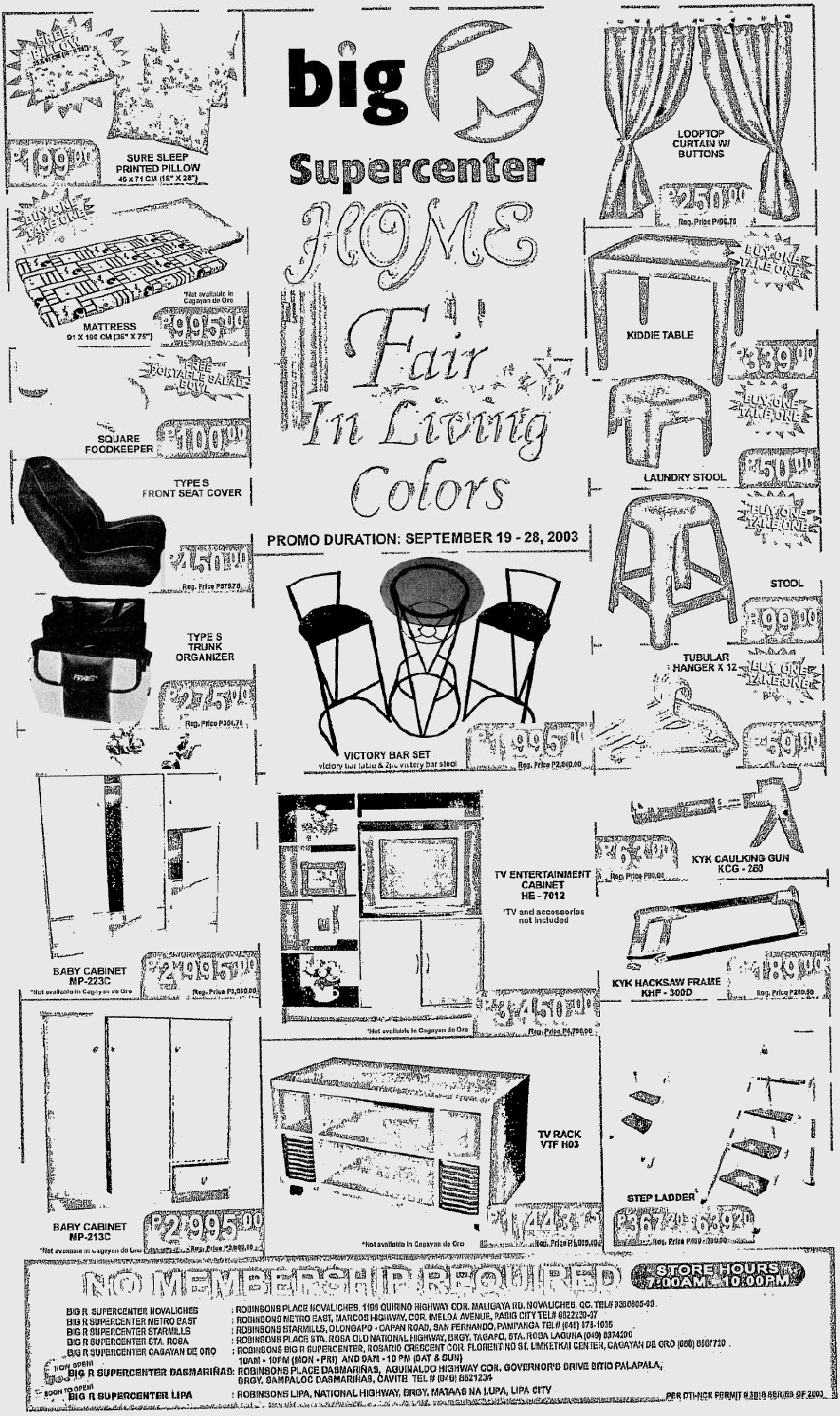
A small model heart pendant comes in yellow and white gold, as well as a large model heart charm. The small and large model heart pendant also comes in both yellow gold and garnet, or white gold and diamonds.

From sparkling pendants and enchanting charms, the Heart Collection uses with subtlety a number of bag and trunk maker details from the leather goods line.

The emblematic saddle stitching underlines all-gold models with a gold thread. Each one comes with the famous LV signature engraved on the garnet or embossed on the gold, represented in the diamond paving. For more romance, a small photo can be slipped inside.

In the Philippines, Louis Vuitton is located at the ground floor level of 6750 Ayala Avenue, Makati City.

Visit www.vuitton.com or call (632) 8130637.


big R Supercenter
HOME Fair In Living Colors
PROMO DURATION: SEPTEMBER 19 - 28, 2003

FREE PILLOW 35 X 61 CM (14" X 24")
SURE SLEEP PRINTED PILLOW 45 X 71 CM (18" X 28")
₱199.00

BUY ONE TAKE ONE
MATTRESS 91 X 190 CM (36" X 75")
₱995.00
*Not available in Cagayan de Oro

FREE PORTABLE SALAD BOWL
SQUARE FOODKEEPER
₱100.00

TYPE S FRONT SEAT COVER
₱450.00
Reg. Price P579.75

TYPE S TRUNK ORGANIZER
₱275.00
Reg. Price P384.75

VICTORY BAR SET
victory bar table & 2pc victory bar stool
₱1,995.00
Reg. Price P2,840.00

LOOPTOP CURTAIN W/ BUTTONS
₱250.00
Reg. Price P490.75

BUY ONE TAKE ONE
KIDDIE TABLE
₱39.00

BUY ONE TAKE ONE
LAUNDRY STOOL
₱50.00

BUY ONE TAKE ONE
STOOL
₱99.00

TUBULAR HANGER X 12
BUY ONE TAKE ONE
₱59.00

BABY CABINET MP-223C
₱2,995.00
*Not available in Cagayan de Oro
Reg. Price P3,080.00

TV ENTERTAINMENT CABINET HE - 7012
*TV and accessories not included
₱3,450.00
*Not available in Cagayan de Oro
Reg. Price P4,750.00

KYK CAULKING GUN KCG - 260
₱62.00
Reg. Price P90.00

KYK HACKSAW FRAME KHF - 300D
₱189.00
Reg. Price P280.50

BABY CABINET MP-213C
₱2,995.00
*Not available in Cagayan de Oro
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TV RACK VTF H03
₱[illegible]
*Not available in Cagayan de Oro
Reg. Price P1,025.00

STEP LADDER
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Reg. Price P460 - 700.00

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BIG R SUPERCENTER METRO EAST : ROBINSONS METRO EAST, MARCOS HIGHWAY, COR. IMELDA AVENUE, PASIG CITY TEL# 6822230-37
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SM SUPERCENTER SUCAT

mall hours 10am - 10pm

Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 3744, Series of 2003

LIFESTYLE

From the F4 show to the Bublé concert, the weekend was about getting your fix

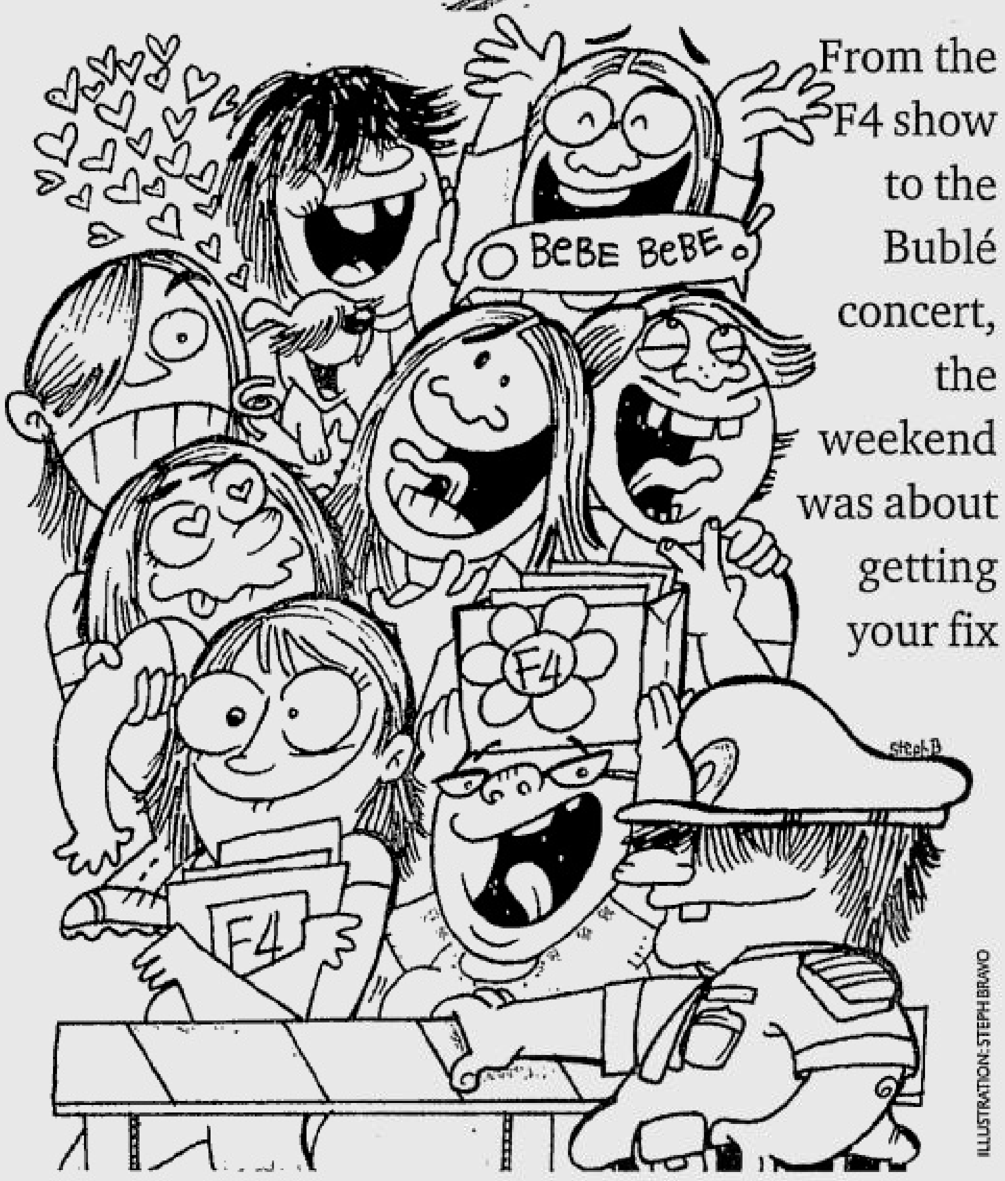


ILLUSTRATION: STEPH BRAVO

What a (good or bad) straight-hair weekend!

LIFE-STYLED

Thelma Sioson San Juan

AFTER an F4 weekend, you'd think we have had enough of the straight hair by now?

Doubt it. That was quite a mob at the Ultra last Saturday, an obsessed, single-minded mob that couldn't have enough of the "chinitos" and "chinitas." There were even Koreans and Chinese who flew over just to watch them. And there were mommies and grandmas out there.

Our editor-colleague went with her regular F4 story/photo source—a 60something woman who's followed the rise of the long-haired four since two years ago when they came on the scene. The matron has every collectible on them including cellphone pouch, and knows every bit of trivia about them—the latest, too, including who among them could be altar-bound. Why the obsession? This Chinese-Filipino woman said that these chinovela characters stood for the romance she wished she had when she was their age.

Chalk editor Jane Kingsu had quite an experience; she was interpreter to Barbie, her sister and mom. Jane speaks good Mandarin—something that surprised even the F4 manager. That's because she said she grew up in a household that played Chinese songs round-the-clock because her mom loved them, and she herself loved to sing them. But the Mandarin singer that she is, Jane was surprised nonetheless to discover that the thick Ultra crowd was all singing in Chinese. Surreal.

Jane said it was somewhat scary to feel the "P500s" pushing their way closer to the "P1,000s" and the "P3,000s." Some revenge of the "P500s."

Also that Saturday, over at Meralco, at the pre-concert cocktails for Michael Bublé, a perplexed, if not infuriated, Fritz Ynfante, was right on the mark as usual: "Why would anyone go to (hear) Taiwanese songs? You can't understand them!" he said.

Ironically even Chih, the 35-year-old F4 manager himself, was asking us to explain the mania over "Meteor Garden" and F4 here. Television executive Cory Vidanes put it clinically: one, the romantic story was simple but thrilling; second, they're really good-looking; third, timing.

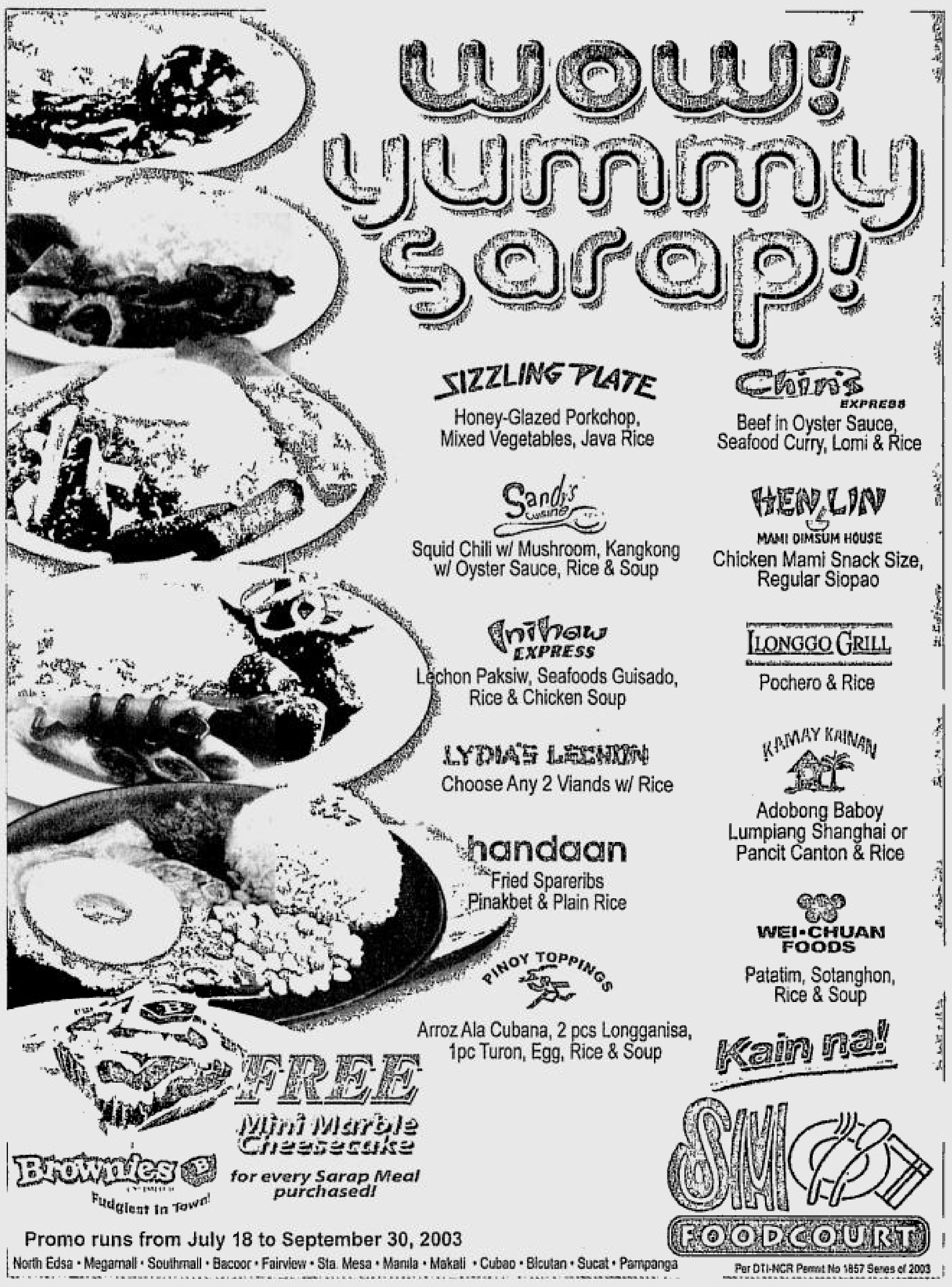
Good looks and simple story. My batch was hung up on the Monkees (next to the Beatles, of course), full bangs. Our kids are into F4, collapsed straight hair. It's more than a hair story, of course, and we have more urgent things to do than trying to psychoanalyze this collective crush on F4. Well, to each his own fix.

Three choices

Saturday night was a smorgasbord of music (F4's "Baby, baby" is optional). You had a choice of which traffic gridlock to brave: Meralco for Bublé, Ultra for F4, and the Philippine International Convention Center for Lea Salonga.

The cool establishment was split between Lea and Bublé. The Meralco crowd was there on invitation from the evening's sponsors. In the elevator, we found ourselves with Philippine Long

WHAT/ E3


wow! yummy sarap!

SIZZLING PLATE
Honey-Glazed Porkchop, Mixed Vegetables, Java Rice

Chin's EXPRESS
Beef in Oyster Sauce, Seafood Curry, Lomi & Rice

Sandy's Cuisine
Squid Chili w/ Mushroom, Kangkong w/ Oyster Sauce, Rice & Soup

HEN LIN MAMI DIMSUM HOUSE
Chicken Mami Snack Size, Regular Siopao

Inihaw EXPRESS
Lechon Paksiw, Seafoods Guisado, Rice & Chicken Soup

ILONGGO GRILL
Pochero & Rice

LYDIA'S LECHON
Choose Any 2 Viands w/ Rice

KAMAY KAINAN
Adobong Baboy Lumpiang Shanghai or Pancit Canton & Rice

handaan
Fried Spareribs Pinakbet & Plain Rice

WEI-CHUAN FOODS
Patatim, Sotanghon, Rice & Soup

PINOY TOPPINGS
Arroz Ala Cubana, 2 pcs Longganisa, 1pc Turon, Egg, Rice & Soup

Kain na!

FREE Mini Marble Cheesecake for every Sarap Meal purchased!

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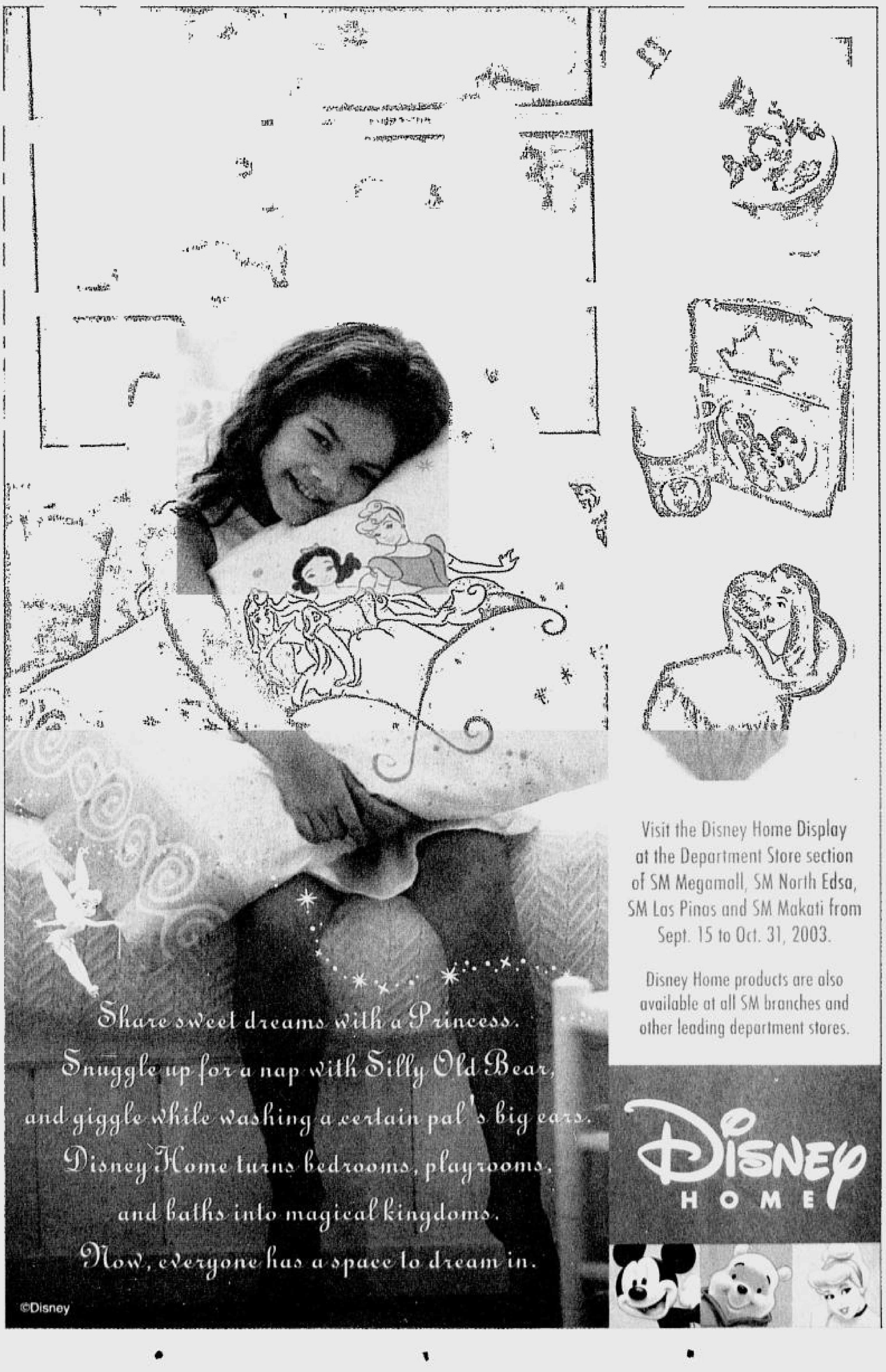
Per DTI-NCR Permit No 1857 Series of 2003


Share sweet dreams with a Princess.
Snuggle up for a nap with Silly Old Bear,
and giggle while washing a certain pal's big ears.
Disney Home turns bedrooms, playrooms,
and baths into magical kingdoms.
Now, everyone has a space to dream in.

Visit the Disney Home Display at the Department Store section of SM Megamall, SM North Edsa, SM Las Pinas and SM Makati from Sept. 15 to Oct. 31, 2003.

Disney Home products are also available at all SM branches and other leading department stores.

DISNEY HOME

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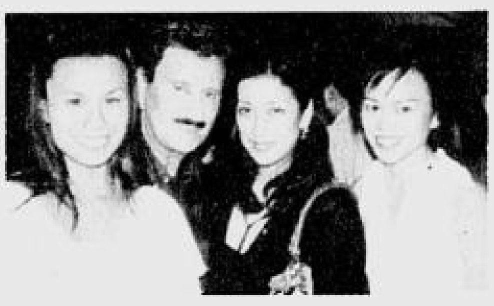
cut out for FREE ENTRANCE

Kids at fashion play, beautiful boy Bublé and tot Tatler

PRINCE of Jaipur's Max Talreja with Michael Bublé

CATHY Aquino and Jose Luis Salas

MARY Anne Lumen and Nick Vagenas



THE BEAUTIES and the eyelash: MTV's Anne Matoto, *moi*, MTV's Cris Lopez and Georgette Tengco

WITHOUT BATTING AN EYELASH

Maurice Arcache

Photos by
Alex Van Hagen on Kodak Max

MANILLE'S next generation of beautiful faces recently got their very first taste of cause-oriented work, *palanggas*, when Big & Small Co. hosted a fantastic kiddie fashion show called "Building a HOUSE of Hope 2."

It was the biggest, most well-attended children's party ever, and, *naturellement*, it was really more play than work for the kids.

The show's beneficiary, the Hematology-Oncology Unit for Service and Education (HOUSE) of the Makati Medical Center, provides educational and psychological support to children with chronic and terminal illnesses.

For this cause, 200 smiling fresh faces from civic-minded and prominent *familles* proudly modeled the clothes of Big & Small Co., Spin, Orange Juice and Havin' A Baby.

It was the second year for the show, which is also one of the most-awaited social gatherings of friends and customers of Big & Small Co. With over 14 years in the industry, Big & Small's satisfied clientele ranges from infants to teens who have grown up loving the brand's familiar bear trademark and the many activities and fun-filled promos it has done over the years.

This year's show, in cooperation with Nestlé Baby, Mommy Academy and NBC, marked the best activity so far, *palanggas*, with a fashion presentation directed by **Jackie Aquino**, no less, endless party games and kiddie treats from Kiddie-party.com, prizes from Maxitoylab, Cadbury and Caltrate, and fabulous food booths by Max's Restaurant, McDonalds, Magoo's Pizza, Nestlé Ice Cream, Coca-Cola and many more!

Leading up to the big day, the ladies of Big & Small Co., headed by super brilliant civic-oriented beauty **Joanna Ongpin-Duarte**, were neck-deep in preparation.

The kiddie fashion they unveiled for the Big & Small Co. label was an eye-catching mix of stylish all-around clothes for boys and girls ages 0-8. Hot new boys' brand Spin, on the other hand, focused on cool styles that both mom and pop and their growing Junior would approve of.

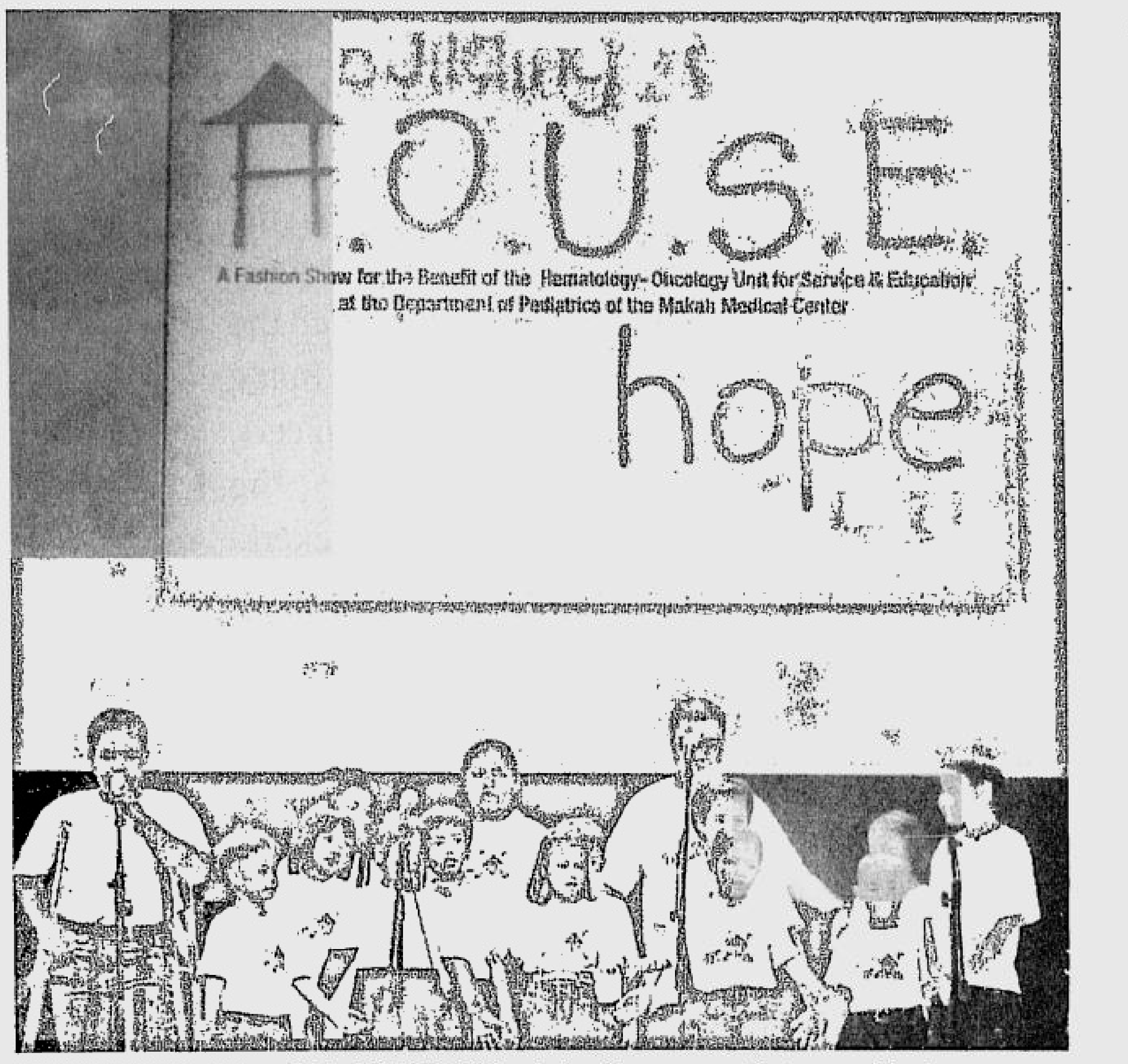
And for the fashion-conscious young miss, Orange Juice is the brand to go, with its quirky clothes that mirror international fashion favorites and give every girl a chance to personalize her style with a colorful wardrobe, down to dainty shoes.

Finally, Havin' A Baby showcased easy and practical outfits for stylish moms-to-be.

Opening the program was a number by several HOUSE children, majority of them cancer patients who are in remission at present. Seeing them onstage was a touching experience, prompting many new pledges of sponsorship for next year's event.

The money raised from the event will allow HOUSE to continue to support these poor children with proper medical care and regular psychosocial and therapeutic recreational activities. I was so glad to witness an afternoon of fun that could also mean so much to this children who definitely need all our help.

FRANCES Lim, Jenny Santi, Francis Lumen and Jane Yu



H.O.U.S.E.
A Fashion Show for the Benefit of the Hematology-Oncology Unit for Service & Education at the Department of Pediatrics of the Makati Medical Center
hope

THE WONDERFUL children of Makati Med's HOUSE, majority of them cancer patients, opened the show.

DR. Allan Racho, HOUSE head, thanks the audience for the much-needed pledges of support the organization received.

THE WOMAN behind the successful show, Joanna Ongpin-Duarte of Big & Small Co.

DANTE Silverio with Fernando and Jaime Augusto Zobel

Hurricane crooner

Prince of Jaipur—the restaurant's very name alone spells exotic allure. And who else would come into this fabi resto for dinner, *palanggas*, but the man of the hour, baby-faced Canadian crooner Michael Bublé no less?

The world-class singer certainly took cosmo Manille by hurricane during his recent concert series. But before that, day after his arrival, an excellently prepared dinner was hosted by **Francis Lumen** of NBC and MTV, together with Prince of Jaipur owner **Max Talreja** (also of Corona Beer fame).

After the delicious dinner at the chi-chi resto, Bublé and his band went on stage and sang three songs that sent the fully packed dining audience screaming like school girls.

The following night, while two members of F4 had the teenybopper set stampeding all over them, Bublé had our town's *alta* café *sociedad* swooning, applauding and sighing over his romantic songs at the Meralco Theater—a grand show to kick off PLDT's fabulous 75th anniversary.

Tatler turns two

The hottest ticket in town is all set to happen tomorrow as Philippine Tatler, which just happens to be the country's ultimate lifestyle and society magazine, hosts the second annual grand Philippine Tatler Ball at the Rizal Ballroom of Shangri-La Hotel, Makati.

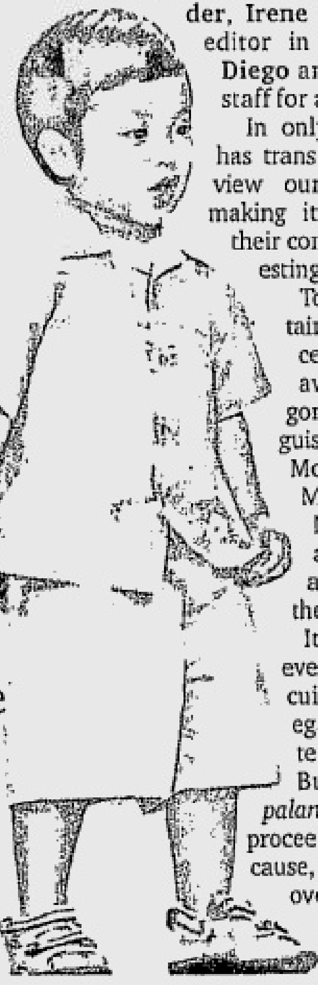
This strictly invitational black-tie affair will have the *creme de la creme* of Manille society gathered under one roof. Tons of congratulations are in order this early to renowned publishers Dr. and Mrs. **Mohinder, Irene Martel Francisco**, editor in chief **Anton San Diego** and the whole Tatler staff for a fabulous job.

In only two years, Tatler has transformed the way we view our social landscape, making it more exciting via their controversial and interesting covers and articles.

Tomorrow night, certain individuals will receive the annual Tatler awards in these categories: Most Distinguished Gentleman, Most Eligible Bachelor, Most Stylish Lady, Most Charitable Force and, the highest award of the evening, the Pinnacle Award.

It'll definitely be an evening of music, dance, cuisine, champagne, elegance, fun and laughter—soo very Tatler. But more importantly, *palanggas*, the evening's proceeds will be for a good cause, as they will be turned over to the Makabata Foundation. Will you be there?

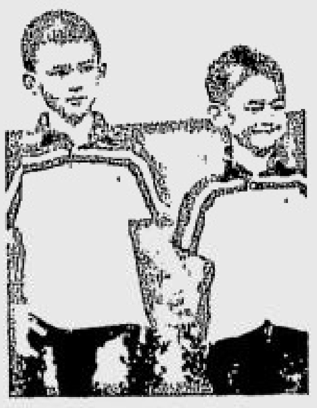
The good news is that proceeds from these events are going to good causes



JOSE Camacho

HANNAH Deakin, Mireya Vazquez Prada and Natalia Legarda

JOSE Manuel and Natalia Matute



JOSHUA and Martin Longa

STEFFI and Monika del Rosario

ANTON Lopa and Jaime Duarte

HENNY Zobel

PAOLO and Pia Locsin

THE FORES kids: Raulito and Alfonso (back), Lorenzo and Jose (front)

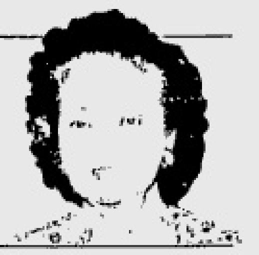
DIEGO Garcia

SOPHIA Perrett and Luisa Mañosa

Elder daughter elopes with younger daughter's suitor

LIVE AND LET LIVE

Tita Dulce



DEAR Tita Dulce,

My eldest child, Ana, eloped with her boyfriend, Dan. We did not know that they were on. In fact, as everybody knew, he was courting my middle child, Bea, who had turned him down twice. But she had told Ana she was beginning to like Dan and would probably give him her "yes" the next time he tried again, especially if his situation improved.

Dan has been unemployed. In contrast, Ana has just begun her medical practice.

It was not Bea alone who was brokenhearted and quite embarrassed by what happened. My husband was, too. He could have quit working abroad earlier, but he continued for nearly 20 years just to see Ana through medical school. We hoped that after all our efforts for her, Ana would end up with a much better man.

Bea, my husband and I feel betrayed by Ana and Dan. I'm sure Ana knows that, because she has been sending her apologies and asking for our understanding. Recently, I heard that she's on the family way with what will be my first grandchild.

I am now willing to forgive Ana and even Dan, and I'm sure things will be a lot better if my husband and Bea would feel the same. However, I'm not sure if I should even try convincing them. That's because Bea had said Ana hurt us in different ways, so each of us must forgive Ana and Dante at our individual paces and in our individual ways.

There's a very tense and awkward air at home for many months now, and I don't know how to deal with it.

A MOTHER

If parents can't disown a child, then they must accept her back; set conditions, but accept her back

Things might have been a lot better had Ana revealed to Bea her feelings for Dan as soon as he courted her. Or had Dante first discussed with Bea his change of heart. Then the three of them could have planned a more graceful and less painful "twist" of events.

But that's water under the bridge, and I'm glad that you are intent on moving on. Bea, apparently, is not. That's understandable. Experience prepares us parents for ending up with a son-in-law we do not like, but nothing really prepares a young woman for losing her crush or suitor to her sister the way it happened to Bea.

Bea, however, appears to be dealing with it better than most. And I say that because she declared that forgiveness for Ana and Dante must be individually arrived at and expressed. While that means that you can't pressure her into forgiving them, it also means that she won't stop you from taking Ana back into the family fold.

Of course, that also means that Bea should not be expected to treat Ana and Dan warmly, but it also suggests that, in respect for your feelings, she will at least be civil to them until she can honestly be a "good sport" about it all.

I find that attitude quite mature and fair—and quite in contrast with the way Ana and Dan had behaved. (Perhaps that also shows that Bea and Dan are, in fact, not compatible and they would have been an unhappy couple had they ended up with each other.)

So talk to your husband. Ana, to him as she is to you, is still his first baby, and he will always have a soft spot for her. Parents, I think, have little choices on matters like this. If they can't disown a child, then they must accept her back—set limits and conditions, but accept her back.

Don't create the impression, however, that you've allied yourselves with Ana against Bea. Caution yourselves and Ana from doing anything that Bea might interpret as a repeat of Ana's disregard for her feelings and pride.

Avoid creating the impression that you "continue to spoil" Ana. She should not be too quick to call you for help, and you should not be too quick to oblige unless it's a matter of life and death.

Ana asserted her independence by eloping with Dan, and she should show the same independence in resolving problems that normally goes with marriage or with being a mother, a wife and woman with a profession that is more prestigious than her husband's.

E-mail titadulce@netscape.net or send letters to P.O. Box 2353, Makati CPO 1263 Makati City, or PDI, Chino Roces Avenue corner Yague and Mascardo Streets, Makati City

What a (good or bad) straight-hair weekend

From page F1

Distance Telephone company's Manny Pangilinan, who was apparently flushed with victory; his Ateneo won over De La Salle earlier that evening.

At the pre-concert cocktails at the Meralco penthouse, matrons, young, middle-aged and old, took turns posing beside the good-looking Canadian singer. Michael wasn't only charming. He also knew how to break the ice, so comfortably air-bussing the girls sidling up to him for a snapshot. He asked as he saw our expression, "Is it usual to do this?" We had to assure him that, coy the girls may seem, "beso-beso" isn't only usual, it's been turned into an art in the scene.

Tim Yap sported his Beckham 'do—braided on the crown, the rest skimming his shoulders. He—no, his housemaid actually—spares time to do the braids. At another end of the room was iconic director Fritz firing away characteristically. He muttered to me, how come, entertainment-wise and in everything else, we're no longer thinking? "We need a thinking show."

Back to thinking.

Well, before I could think up a retort, it was show time. Bublé was some performer. He can also dance and work up the audience. His voice eases you into a romantic, even melancholic, mood. When he said, "We make a living out of making people horny," you got exactly what he meant the moment he sang "That's All" and "The Way You Look Tonight."

He stayed connected to his audience even in a huge theater like Meralco and, in return, they stayed focused on him onstage no matter that in the dark, in front of you, Celine Lopez's svelte silhouette kept scurrying about the theater.

After a most romantic song, somebody in the audience hollered: "Just say the word and I'll marry you, Michael." The performer searched out the voice, went down to the audience and walked toward the person who yelled. It was a "him"—Fritz Ynfante. As people cheered, Michael hugged and kissed him.

I wasn't able to ask Fritz if he got to think before he asked Michael to marry him.

You may not get your thinking show, Fritz, but like many of us last Saturday, at least you got your music fix.

Now literally

Talking about hair in the literal sense, women (me included) and a few guys (my son among them) have been sporting straight-perm hair for the past two years or so.

In that span of time, the salons have also been serving up a bewildering array of services and "miracle" treatments—from rebonding to reborn, shine, among others—which many were adventurous enough to try. Our scalp became a veritable receptacle of all these substances—organic, natural or chemical—coming from China, Korea, Japan.

Today I can imagine many are seeing the effects of such a bombardment.

In my case, I didn't have to wait for effects. Tired of my straight-perm, shoulder-length hair, I went back to my bob, this time without the page-boy wave. I wasn't keen on going back to straight perm, but I didn't want curls or waves. I simply wanted a neat, preppy-chic bob. (I loved Selma Blair's bob and pearls in "Legally Blonde 1.")

I discovered two solutions. First, I got the suitable tools—hair straightening iron and an Acca Kappa brush. Of course, it's back to blow-dry, then iron (only for the front). The Acca Kappa brush is a discovery, the best I've had so far. It gives volume and is so manageable.

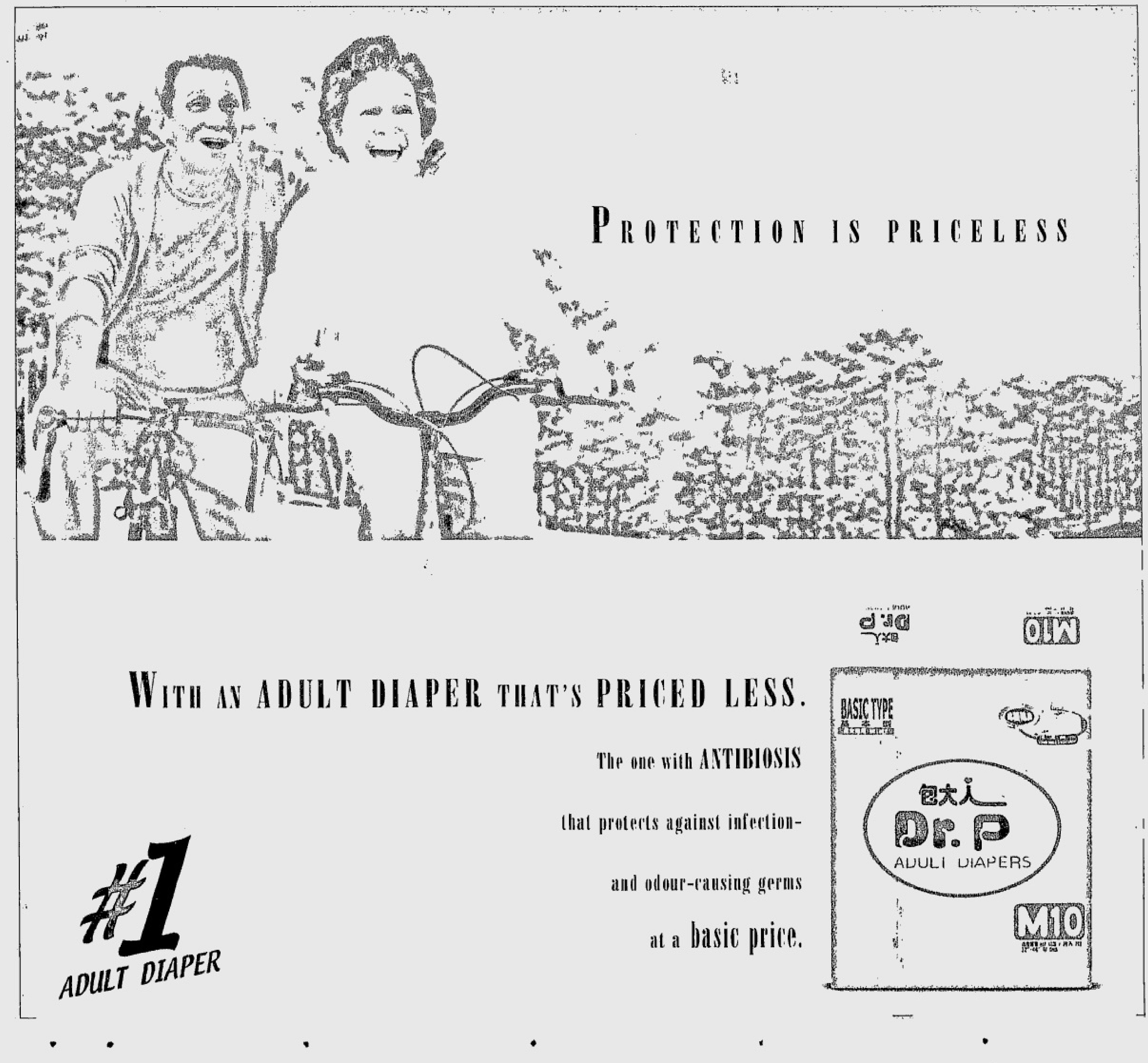
Acca Kappa became hot when the likes of Oprah and Sarah Jessica Parker used its products (toothpaste for Oprah). Rhoda Campos of Essences (at Rustan's, where it's available) introduced me to its various products. (Its cologne is the best after-shower scent there is.)

Second, I began a regimen the moment my hairdresser told me my hair "could" be getting dry. I picked out the Phyto line—from oil in a vial (once a week, before shampoo) to shampoo to after-shampoo cream. Its milky shampoo for dry hair preempted scragginess and split-ends. I knew I saved my hair in the nick of time. I usually don't go into brands but in Phyto's case, I think it just might be useful to many girls and guys out there whose hair is beginning to suffer the effects of chemical bombardment in the past two years.

Let's face it, you can't have your hair chemically treated every six months, dyed, colored or highlighted every other month (which almost every woman now does), and still have it looking fresh and healthy. Something's got to give. Technology has its downside, and this is it.

Time to give it a rest from treatments (natural or chemical).

E-mail the author at tsanjuan@skyinet.net



Use cotton socks, which are breathable and can easily absorb perspiration, as most kids will prefer comfort over fashion

Fashion for kids and more practical skin-care tips

IF I dress up my pre-adolescent son in black pants and gray loafers, should he wear black or gray socks? What are the rules when it comes to choosing socks? What colors and materials should I choose?

APPLES' PICKINGS

Apples Aberin-Sadhwani

I also have an eight-year-old girl, and I was wondering if it is too severe to match pastel dresses with a pair of black shoes?

"Nowadays, fashion is all about self-expression and individual style, and this holds true for both adults and children," says Marissa Buenaventura, owner of Meet My Feet, a boutique that will open this October at the Shangri-La Plaza and will offer footwear and accessories for infants to pre-teens.

"In this case, however, it would look more pleasing to the eye if the socks matched more with the shoes than the pants," she adds.

So, it might be better to have your son wear gray socks together with his black pants and gray shoes.

Both Buenaventura and I agree that as a general rule, the shade of one's pants, socks and shoes should gradate from the lightest to the darkest, starting from top to bottom. This rule especially applies for formal and corporate wear for male adults. If one's pants are gray, it follows that socks are a darker gray and shoes are black or an even darker shade of gray.

The rules are less stringent for youngsters, but if you want to be more proper, particularly during more formal affairs, it might help to keep the above-mentioned guideline in mind.

FASHION rules are less stringent for youngsters, so give them enough leeway for self-expression and individual style.

Buenaventura strongly recommends the use of cotton socks, as this material is breathable and can easily absorb perspiration. "Most kids will prefer comfort over fashion, so cotton is the best choice," she says.

For dressier events, she suggests the use of solid-colored cotton socks or cotton-blend socks that stretch well and don't look too casual.

As for your daughter's shoe dilemma, Buenaventura says there is nothing wrong with pairing white or pastel dresses with black shoes. She has seen a lot of photos of young girls in light-colored smock dresses matched with black mary-janes and white socks. But she warns that this look is much better for parties and other such dressy occasions.

For a more casual, everyday look, she sensibly suggests the use of white sandals. "If you don't want to acquire too many pairs of shoes, especially because children's feet are constantly growing, invest in a good pair of white sandals as they go with most anything and they are the most used. Plus, they are perfect for our country's tropical weather."

I'm 41 years old and a mother of three children. My friends and the people I meet always say that I could pass for someone in my early 30s. In fact, during the debut party I hosted for my eldest daughter, I was mistaken as her sister, which really flattered me.

What they don't know is that I worry about the dryness of my face and the wrinkles and lines that show each time I smile. I am considering going to a facial salon, but my budget just won't fit.

I am also thinking of having botox treatments, though I know it might cost me a lot. I also have eye bags, which I get from sleeping late. Being a mother, a career woman and a doctoral student, I just can't prevent having them.

Can you give me advice on how to lessen these eye bags? What about botox treatments? I am vain and I want to stay beautiful even at my age.

Take a bow, pretty mama! I completely understand your need to stay beautiful and to maintain your youthful good looks, but based on your letter, you seem to be doing a good job all on your own.

In spite of your busy schedule, numerous responsibilities and limited budget for additional skincare treatments, you've managed to look like your daughter's older sister with very little effort.

If you are worried about your skin's dryness, then you must make an extra effort to hydrate by drinking lots of water and using moisturizer regularly. A gentle scrub or certain creams with AHA (alpha-hydroxy acid) are perfect, too, as these help shed dry skin layers.

Botox can also lead you closer to your quest for that elusive fountain of youth, but it will definitely be expensive and will only last a few months, so you'll have to do it periodically to maintain a wrinkle-free face.

You will look gorgeous after botox injections but your face may seem a bit doll-like, unnatural and devoid of expression (just like Demi Moore in "Charlie's Angels 2") because of your paralyzed muscles. So, should you decide to go ahead with the procedure, discuss it thoroughly with your doctor so you'll know all the pros and cons and can make an informed, intelligent decision.

To minimize eye bags, you have to get the right amount of sleep. Although this might be a bit difficult for you, try your best to get around eight hours of shut-eye every night. It will also help to avoid salty food that retains water and, therefore, causes eye bags.

To help reduce puffiness under your eyes, try these inexpensive at-home remedies from "The Body Book, Recipes for Natural Body Care" by Anne Akers Johnson:

Black tea soother:

Black tea contains tannin, which reduces the puffiness around your eyes. Cheaper teas have a higher tannin level, so don't waste your money on the fancy stuff.

2 black tea bags

Run the tea bags under cool water to completely moisten the tea.

Being careful of the staples in the bags (if there are any), place the damp tea bags over your closed eyes. Cover with a cool washcloth (before use, run washcloth over cool water, put in bowl and chill for 20 minutes in the refrigerator, or if you can't wait, dunk washcloth in a bowl of ice water. Squeeze and then fold in half lengthwise two times to form a long narrow band) and relax for 5-10 minutes.

Cucumber soother:

This classic treatment will leave you feeling refreshed.

Thin cucumber slices (it's nice if the cucumber is thin enough to bend a little)

Place the cucumbers over your closed eyes, then cover with a cool washcloth (same washcloth procedure as above) for 5-10 minutes.

In the process of trying to defy Mother Nature, do remember that lines on the face can actually show strength and character. The likes of Audrey Hepburn and Katharine Hepburn remained beautiful in spite (or because) of their wrinkles and lines.

So, if all else fails, wear yours with pride, as these lines and furrows only prove how much you've lived, loved and made the most of every moment of your life.

E-mail the author at apsadvice@hotmail.com

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Gising na!

Helping homeowners care for their home sweet home

THE FACADE and common areas of Brentwood Heights have been rejuvenated with a fresh coat of paint.

WHO looks after a development upon its turnover to unit owners for occupancy?

It's the property management service, the after-sales arm of a real-estate development that oversees functions such as housekeeping for common areas, utility maintenance and security.

It also helps the homeowners' associations organize maintenance and enhancement activities to keep the development in good shape.

Says Oceanic Realty and Property Management Services vice president Marivic Trinos: "In our line of work, we make sure that a property gets the best of care. We delegate job duties to a maintenance staff that competently handles everyday concerns, from changing light bulbs to plugging up leaking faucets. We manage each property as well as we can to ensure our clients' utmost comfort."

Effective

Her staff knows all about effective property management, being the after-sales arm of premier urban developer Megaworld Corporation.

Oceanic cares for some of the Metro's most prestigious residential, office and commercial developments under Megaworld and its subsidiary Empire East Land Holdings, Inc.

In Parañaque, Oceanic has completed the repainting of Brentwood Heights' common areas and the conversion of the tennis court at Sherwood Heights into a multipurpose court.

It has also implemented a waste-segregation program at Two Lafayette Square in the Makati business district, which reduces the amount of residual waste in the residential condominium tower and cuts down on garbage-collection costs.

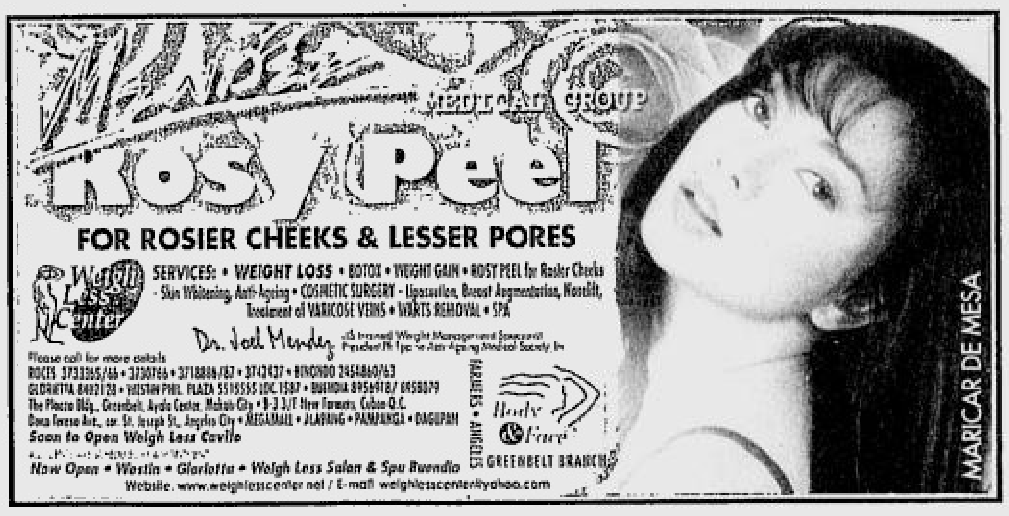
In Quezon City, Oceanic has repainted the exterior of Narra Heights and implemented an automated collection system at the Eastwood Central Parking.

The company's other repainting projects include Little Baguio Gardens in San Juan, the Central Business Park warehouse in Pasig City, and Wack Wack Heights in Mandaluyong City.

Landscaping

Also in Mandaluyong City, landscaping enhancements have endowed Governor's Place with lush greenery, while San Francisco Gardens

HELPING/F2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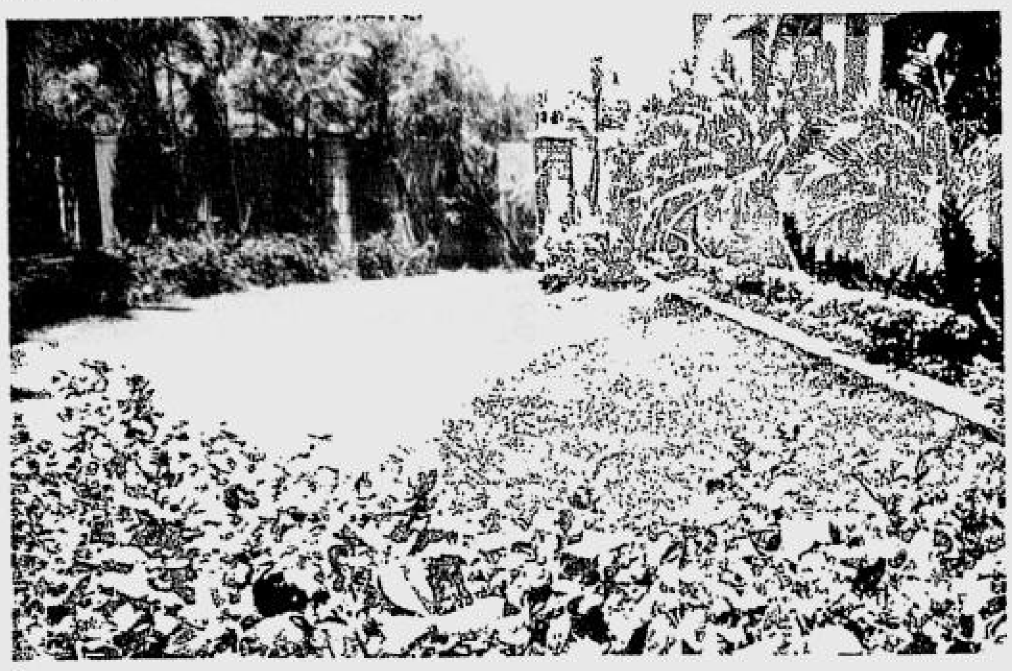


OCEANIC property management has improved the landscaping at Governor's Place, which is now covered with lush greenery.

THE CHILDREN'S play area has a new Little Tikes play set.

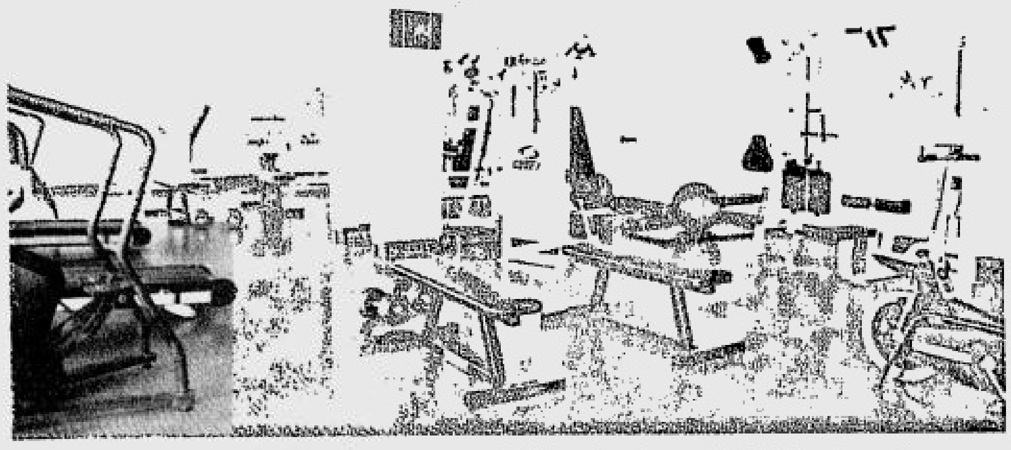
Helping homeowners care for their home . . .

From page F1

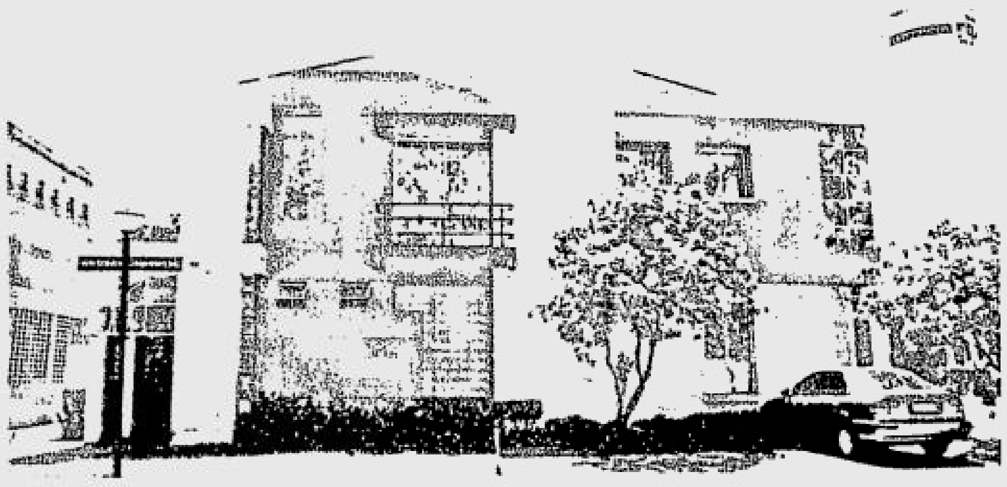
boasts a more spacious playground and repainted trellises at the pool area.

At 8 Wack Wack Road, a Little Tikes playset has been added to the play area, while a full-length mirror and additional exercise equipment have been installed in the gym.

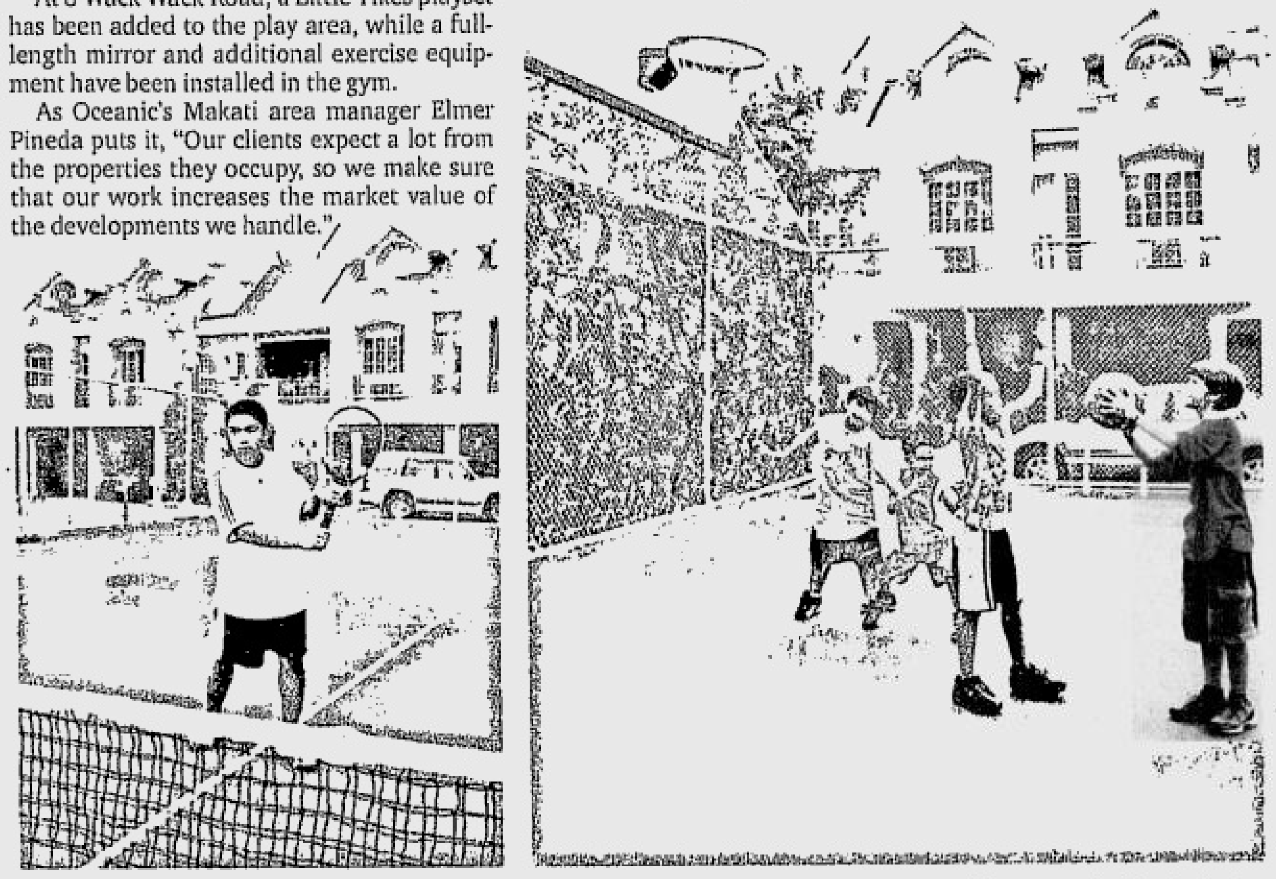
As Oceanic's Makati area manager Elmer Pineda puts it, "Our clients expect a lot from the properties they occupy, so we make sure that our work increases the market value of the developments we handle."



THE GYM at 8 Wack Wack Road sports a new full-length mirror and additional exercise equipment.



FRESH paint and polished tiles make the Central Business Park in Pasig City look as good as new.



THE SHERWOOD Heights court has been converted into a multipurpose court where residents can play basketball, volleyball or badminton.

WAVE 89.1 BIGFISH CHIMARA AYALA CINEMAS DISH sportshouse All the games you play!

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DJ Manolet Dario and percussionist Fritz Barth jam with Super! at Dream Bar 6750 at 10p.m. House music, anthems, Latin beats – a free flowing night of fun vibe and fab people.

Super! events are on a first-come, first-served basis.
Your Super! tips to make sure you make it to the events:

1. Be at the gate when it opens on the specified time of the night. (Make sure you're there before the others do!)
2. Flash your Super! buttons or Super! invites at the registration.
3. Register your names to claim your freebies and to be a part of the nightly raffle.
4. Make sure you are identified as a Super! guest so wear your Super! buttons all the time. Show your best smile to Super! photographers at the event venue to be included in the Saturday Special Super! exclusive coverage.
5. Have ultimate fun with other Super! guests all throughout the night. Ain't that Super?!

Tree 'champions' get organized

SEEING GREEN

Doris Gaskell Nuyda

NO matter how the controversy between the Katipunan community and Metro Manila Development Authority (MMDA) is resolved, it has already brought about one positive result—the launch of a tree protection movement called Tanggol Puno.

The new organization is composed of environmentally aware citizens who, alarmed by the events on Katipunan Avenue, Quezon City, have come together to, as the name indicates, defend threatened trees. Making itself felt in Katipunan now, the organization intends to spread out eventually throughout different areas in Manila, and ultimately all over the country. It takes its cue, say the organizers, from the firm stand taken by Katipunan communities in defense of their trees.

So, last Aug. 14, those concerned citizens, spearheaded by the COCAP (Concerned Citizens against Pollution) and other environmental non-government organizations (NGOs) like the Eco-Waste Coalition and Recycling Movement of the Philippines, met at Miriam College to launch Tanggol Puno. Among other things, they decided to make the transformation of Metro Manila into a garden city, as part of their vision.

They maintain that everyone has the right to live guided by the rhythm and harmony of nature. As a matter of fact, the Constitution guarantees people's rights to health and a balanced ecology. Without trees, they stress, man stands to lose many of God's beautiful creatures which make the world more livable.

The movement's goals are backed up by facts and figures: To raise the quality of urban life, "we need one tree for every four people (this excludes trees in nature reserves and watersheds). Two mature trees can produce enough oxygen for 20 people. Trees are useful for their cooling effect, their ability to improve the physical and mental health of human beings. Trees and parks are known to lower crime rates and contribute to the moral tone of a community. Trees are needed to clean the air, reducing the pollution caused by motor vehicles, which account for 70 to 80 percent of Metro Manila's smog. They neutralize carbon monoxide and filter pollutants, especially particulates. They also serve as protection against ultra violet rays.

Lack of trees causes floods

A study by the National Institute of Geological Sciences shows that the reason Metro Manila is experiencing frequent floods and loss of ground water is the lack of trees. When there are no tree roots to absorb the water and bring it to underground aquifers, rain water tends to stay on the surface endangering life and property. Too much water on land and very little underground where it can be of most use. No wonder, say Tanggol Puno organizers, we are facing a water crisis.

A warning has already been issued that a water crisis is expected in Metro Manila by 2007. Yet trees continue to be cut mindlessly. There is, for instance, a government plan to remove the province of Rizal from the coverage of the Presidential Proclamation naming Rizal, Laguna and Quezon as National Park, Game Preserve and Wildlife Sanctuary. This seems to be because some projects in Rizal will require cutting of trees for unsustainable development.

Tanggol Puno is headed by Zuky Lim Lammoglia, chair; Consuelo D. Sison, secretary. Members of the board include lawyer Necito Hilario, Paolo Alcazaren, Annie Cruz, Fr. Robert Reyes, Chris Austria, Esther Pacheco, Christy Echevarria, Tet Campos Lorenz, Nita Abaguis, Elsie de Veyra, Namby Madrigal and COCAP members. To prove they plan more action than talk, the group gathered anew Sept. 9 to plant more trees along Katipunan, this time in the area around Cravings Restaurant.

World Parks Congress

From the Ecological Society of the Philippines (ESP), we get the report that the Fifth World Parks Congress met for 12 days (Sept. 7-18) in Durban, South Africa for much the same reason as Tanggol Puno—the need to preserve our trees and protected areas—only on a much bigger scale. The importance of the congress is shown by the fact that world parks make up 12 percent of the earth, but many of them are in a sorry state as poachers, miners, loggers, etc. continue to wreak havoc on them. The combined acreage of the world's parks equals the area of China and India put together. This should give one a good picture of the extent of the degradation. The destruction of the parks since the 20th century has left the ecology in many places irreversibly ravaged.

As the name suggests, Tanggol Puno will defend threatened trees

The 93 protected areas in the Philippines are in a similar state, except for at least one success story—the Ifugao Rice Terraces, a World Heritage Site, which is fortunate to have provincial officials working to preserve it.

The causes of destruction are well-known. ESP president Antonio M. Claparols asks, "Why declare these parks as protected if we continue to exploit and cut the trees in them?"

Writer can be contacted at dorisnuyda@yahoo.com

Garden of tranquility

IF you want to free your mind and feel tranquility and harmony for a while, have a mini waterfall Zen garden.

You can learn to make your own garden on Oct. 4, 1-6 p.m. and on Oct. 5, 9 a.m.-6 p.m. at Mett's Plant Art, King Louis Garden Center, Manila Seedling Bank compound, cor. Edsa and Quezon Avenue, Quezon City. The seminar will be conducted by Ikebana professor Serapion S. Metilla.

All materials will be provided including motor pump, volcanic rocks, cement and sand. There will be handouts and snacks. Participants will receive certificates at the end of the seminar.

Call 9394593.

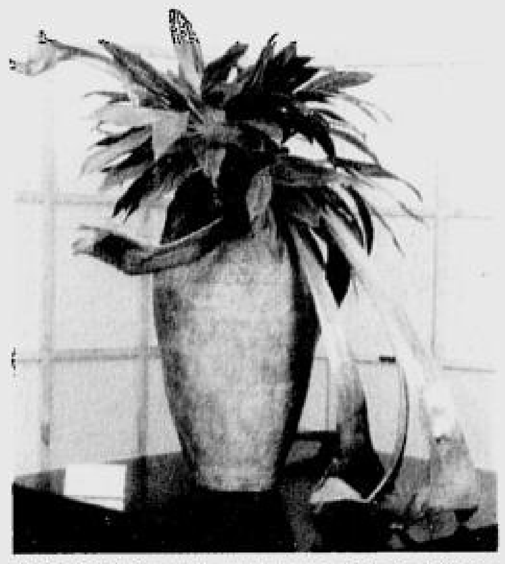
Ikebana exhibit showcases coconut

THE SOGETSU Ikebana Society of Manila will present the coconut, often called the tree of life, as accessory in its floral art show 10 a.m. to 8 p.m., Oct. 3-5, at the Glorietta 4 lobby, Ayala Center, Makati City. Admission is free.

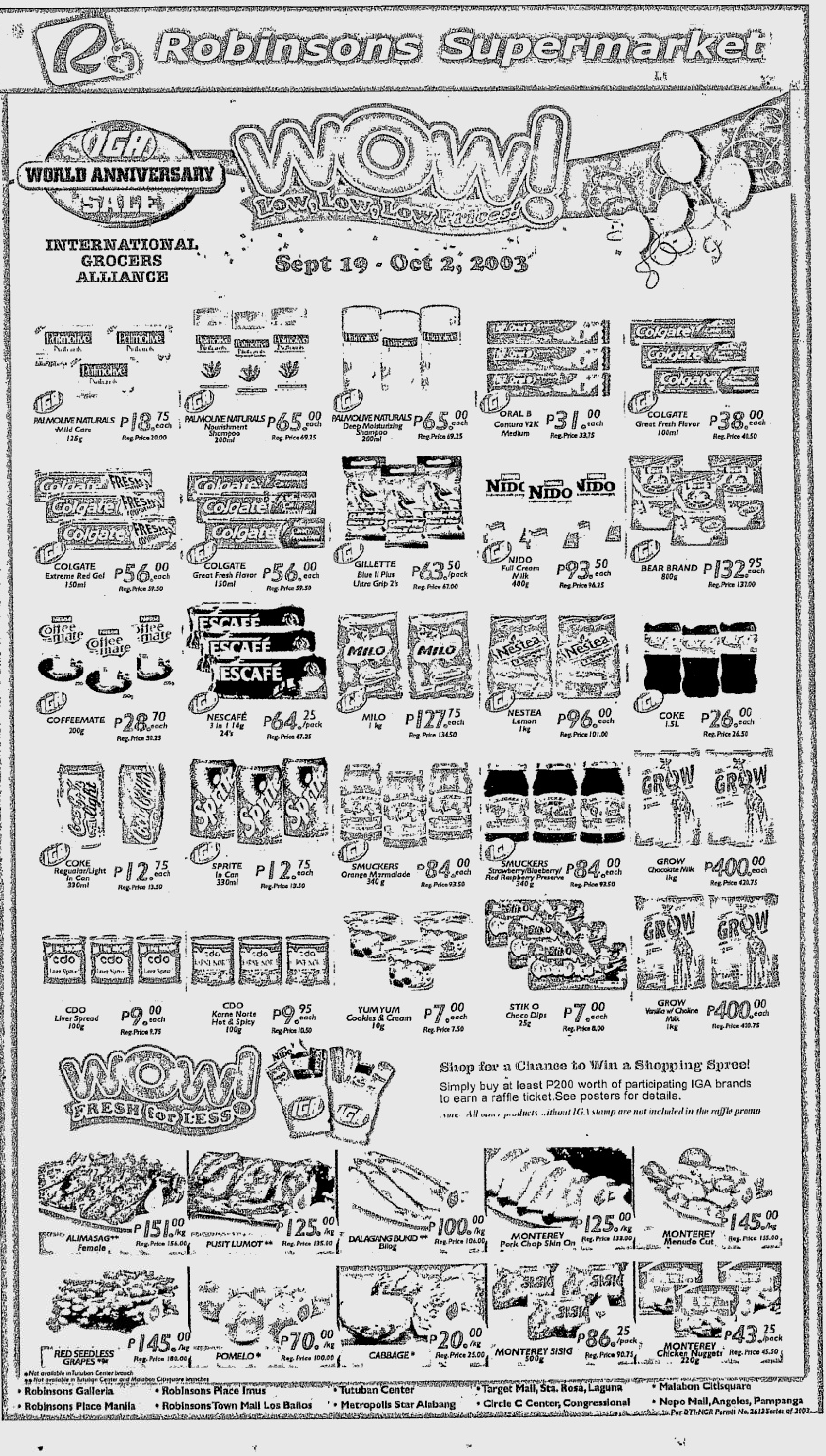
The show will be formally opened by Mayumi Egawa, wife of the deputy chief of mission of the Embassy of Japan; Kit Kat Zobel of the Ayala Group of Companies; and Rex Puentespina, president of the Philippine Orchid Society and proprietor of Waling Orchids.

In charge of the exhibits are show chair Margot Perez, deputy director Vangie Cheng and secretary Emy Dimayuga.

Call Emy Dimayuga at 8209941 or Celia Lazaro at 7276928.



MARGOT Perez's arrangement in an antique jar features the basal ends of dried coconut fronds and assorted cordyline leaves.



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SPRITE In Can 330ml P12.75 each Reg. Price 13.50
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Simply buy at least P200 worth of participating IGA brands to earn a raffle ticket.See posters for details.
[illegible] All [illegible] products [illegible]ithout IGA stamp are not included in the raffle promo
ALIMASAG** Female P151.00 /kg Reg. Price 156.00
PUSIT LUMOT** P125.00 /kg Reg. Price 135.00
DALAGANG BUKID** Bilog P100.00 /kg Reg. Price 106.00
MONTEREY Pork Chop Skin On P125.00 /kg Reg. Price 133.00
MONTEREY Menudo Cut P145.00 /kg Reg. Price 155.00
RED SEEDLESS GRAPES** P145.00 /kg Reg. Price 180.00
POMELO* P70.00 /kg Reg. Price 100.00
CABBAGE* P20.00 /kg Reg. Price 25.00
MONTEREY SISIG 500g P86.25 /pack Reg. Price 90.75
MONTEREY Chicken Nuggets 220g P43.25 /pack Reg. Price 45.50
*Not available in Tutuban Center branch
**Not available in Tutuban Center and Malabon Citisquare branches
• Robinsons Galleria • Robinsons Place Imus • Tutuban Center • Target Mall, Sta. Rosa, Laguna • Malabon Citisquare
• Robinsons Place Manila • Robinsons Town Mall Los Baños • Metropolis Star Alabang • Circle C Center, Congressional • Nepo Mall, Angeles, Pampanga
Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 2613 Series of 2003

3 DAY SUPER SALE
SUPER SM HYPERMARKET SUCAT
SEPTEMBER 19
Get a chance to WIN one of 18 KOPPEL Airconditioners 3/4 hp
For every P1,000 purchase in a single receipt.
DINING TABLE 6-Seater Now P3,999 Reg .P 5,995.00
2L Display Cabinet Now P899 Reg P 1,295.00
MARBELLA 36" Bed (Frame Only) Now P1,299 Reg P 1,795.00
FUTON Mattress Now P499 Reg P 795.00
PHILIPS VCD Component Now P8,999 Reg P 11,999.00 SAVE 3000
PENNY Sofa Set 2-Seater + 1 Ottoman Now P2,499 Reg P 3,495.00
PHILIPS DVD Player Now P5,499 Reg P 6,499.00 SAVE 1000
MOUNTAIN BIKE 20" Now P999 Reg P 1,499.75
GRACO Stroller Now P3,499 Reg P 4,499.75 SAVE 1000
132 SOUND WALKER w/o Stopper Now P799 Reg P 1,299.75
BARBIZON 3-in-1 Panty Now P99/set Reg P 179.75
FINICKEE Shoes Now P149 Reg P 299.25 50% OFF
JAZZ Shoes Now P199 Reg P 399.00 50% OFF
BNY BOY T-Shirt Now P199 Reg P 299.75
KODAK KB12 Camera with Self Timer Now P799 Reg P 999.75
SOUTH SUPER HIGHWAY
PARAÑAQUE CITY
SUPER SM HYPERMARKET SUCAT
Per DTI-NCR Permit No.A2-378 Series of 2003

3-DAY SUPER SALE @ SUPER SM HYPERMARKET SUCAT

Come and shop at **Super SM Hypermarket Sucat's 3-Day Super Sale on September 19, 20 & 21** and get big discounts of up to **50%** at our super storewide sale. Enjoy a wide selection of grocery items, food, furniture, toys, clothes and much more at super marked-down prices!

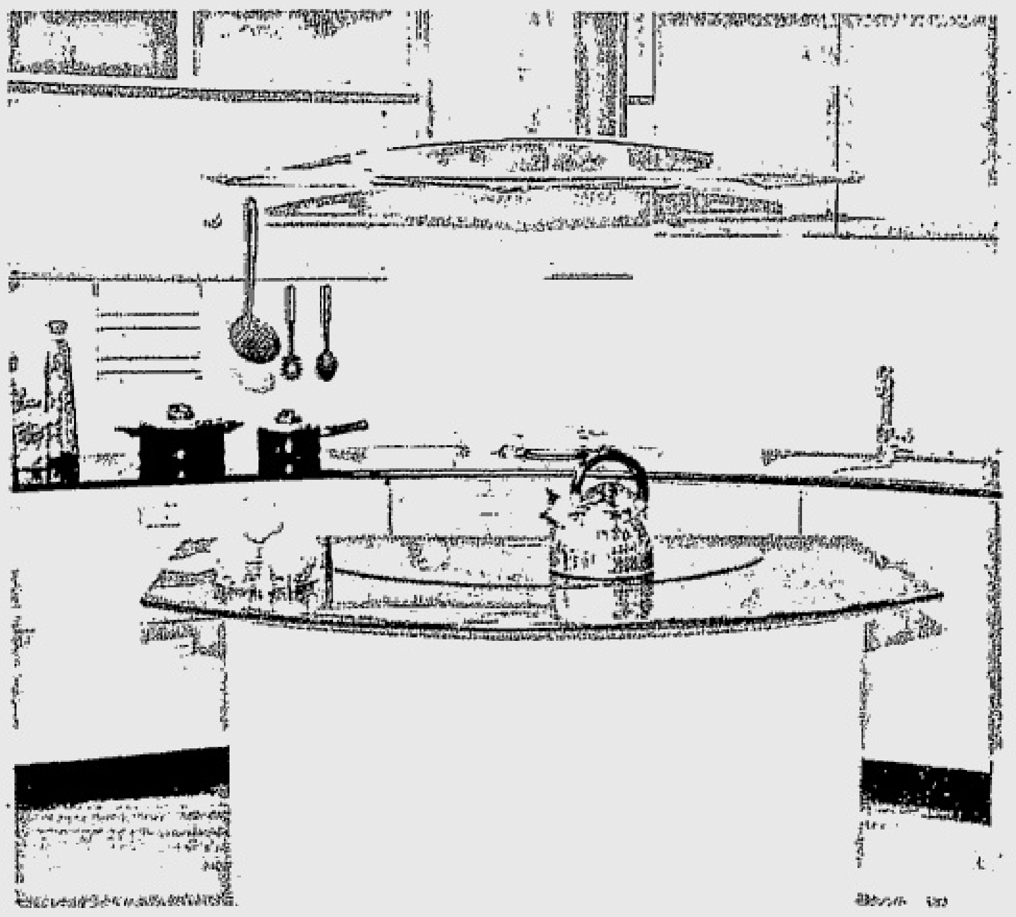
Also, you can avail of special 3-Day Super Sale Value Packs which include a free bonus item for an amazing super savings of up to **80%**!

Plus, as a special treat, Super SM is also giving away **18 Koppel Airconditioners**! Every one thousand peso purchase in a single receipt entitles you to win.

Hurry! Shop and get super discounts and super savings only at the Super SM Hypermarket Sucat 3-Day Sale on September 19, 20 & 21!

Super SM Hypermarket, Super Choices, Super Prices for Everyday Living!

ADVT.



TEKA'S sleekly designed kitchen

One-stop shop for kitchen stuff

TEKA Kuchentechnik by Kuysen at The Podium is a one-stop shop for kitchen enthusiasts.

The kitchens at the store feature modern European design with state-of-the-art concepts.

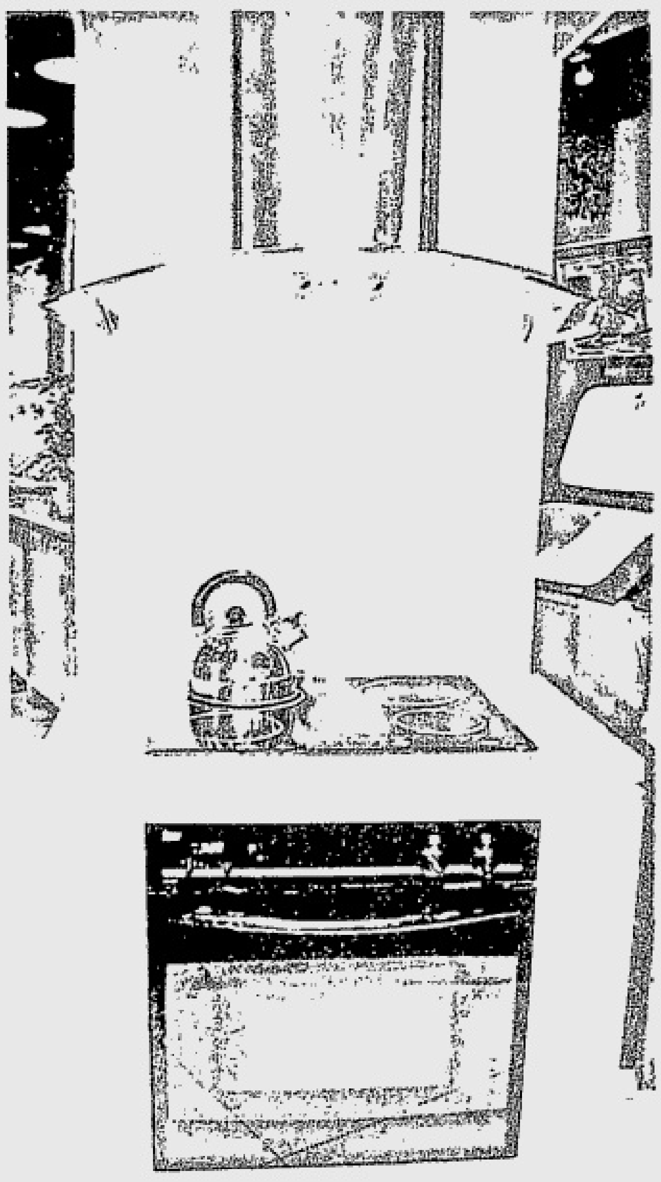
President and general manager Jensen Go said the store was the exclusive distributor of brands considered among Europe's best.

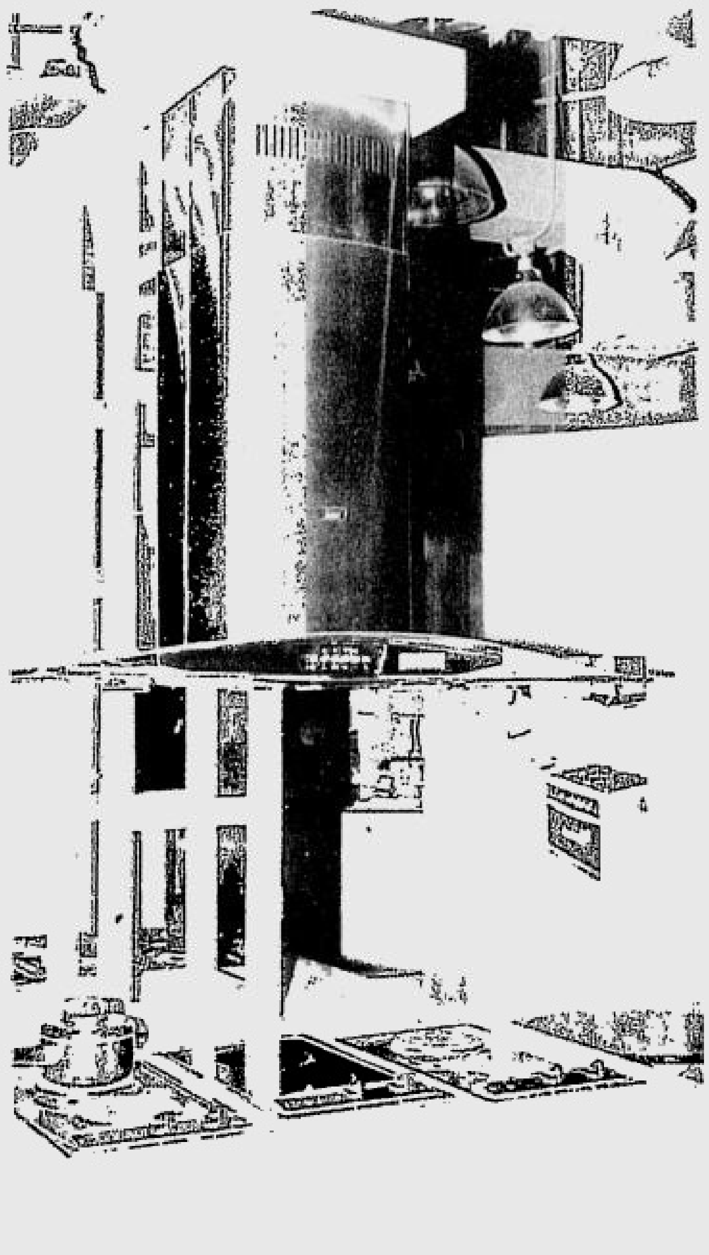
One of the premiere brands is Teka from Spain. Teka products include a comprehensive selection of kitchen appliances like ranges and microwave ovens, as well as accessories like hoods, hobs, sinks and fittings. It is one of the few kitchen companies that manufacture their own appliances. Teka specializes in stainless steel products. It has an array of kitchen faucets/mixers to complement its sink line.

Among other well-known brands in the store are Hanscrobe from Germany and Fillie Frattini from Italy, both specializing in kitchen faucets and mixers.

Go said the store offered a good mix of price, quality, designs and function in terms of kitchen needs.

Teka Kuchentechnik by Kuysen is at the 5/L of The Podium, 18 ADB Ave., Ortigas Center.





PERFECT kitchen stuff. Decorative chimney hoods, lateral touch control ceramic hobs and multifunction oven with digital timer from Teka

GREAT finds at Teka. Decorative Alada Island hood and cook tops

Preventing baldness and caring for men's skin

Two top cosmetic brands have come up with a line of products specifically designed for men's needs

MAKEOVER 911

Kinny Salas

MEN have grooming questions too. They just get turned off by feminine-looking packaging or are simply at a loss where to go or what products are available for them.

Here are a couple of brands that may be the answer to their prayers:

Clarins skincare for men. Men's skin differs from women. It is .5mm thicker, less sensitive, more acidic and has more supply of blood and sebum.

Given these considerations, Clarins, one of the leading skincare companies worldwide, has created a line exclusively for men. Obviously they tapped a need, because from the time it was launched last year, the line has become the top-selling men's cosmetic product in Europe, Australia, New Zealand and the US.

The line features nine products for the face and body in a masculine blue packaging. Like traditional Clarins products, this also taps into the healing and sustaining properties of plants, using only the finest essential oils and natural extracts.

The nine products are the foaming cleanser, foaming gel, shave ease-post-shaving oil, moisture balm, moisture gel, energizing gel, undereye serum, hair and body shampoo and deo stick.

UNDEREYE Serum

Of the nine, my favorite is the deo stick, because it worked as a mattifier for my oily face! (Note: If you have sensitive skin, don't try this.)

Kérastase Aminexil serums and Bain Prevention Shampoo (for hair loss). Oily hair is one of the main causes of baldness. When sebum clogs the pore opening of the scalp, the hair follicle eventually dies and falls off because oxygen and other nutrients are blocked off by the oil.

Shampoo-and-conditioner-in-one treatments should not be used if your hair is on the

PREVENTING/ G4

KÉRASTASE Bain Prevention Shampoo

WHAT'S ON
at Robinsons

DIANA ZUBIRI

It's showtime at Robinsons Place Dasmariñas. Be enticed as Diana performs for you live in an unforgettable mall show! This promises to be an afternoon of excitement, so don't you dare miss it!

[illegible]

ROBINSONS Place DASMARIÑAS

CLINIQUE
Allergy Tested.
100% Fragrance Free.

NEW FROM CLINIQUE

Moisture. Radiance. Combined.

CLINIQUE
clarifying
moisture lotion
hydratante clarifiante
2

© Clinique Laboratories, Inc.

Two functions. One lotion. Unique for Asian skin.

Feel what true hydration and gentle exfoliation can do for your skin. New Clarifying Moisture Lotion, clinically formulated for Asian skin, moisturizes while gently removing dead surface skin cells. With natural moisturizing ingredients Fucoidan and Kumazasa extract, this water-based lotion performs brilliantly, providing beautiful translucency and effective resiliency against dryness and daily stress. New Clarifying Moisture Lotion. 3 types to fit your skin.

Allergy Tested. 100% Fragrance Free.

clinique.com

Bonus Gift
Receive a faux leather makeup vanity case with 2 purchases inclusive of a Clarifying Moisture Lotion in a single receipt.*

Additional Bonus
Receive an additional 5-pc gift with purchases of ₱3,000 and above in a single receipt.*

Bonus PLUS
Pamper yourself from head to toe with our Clinique Experts from Malaysia. Call and register now!

Promotion is valid from September 24 – 30, 2003 (Rustan's Makati)
October 2 – 5, 2003 (Rustan's Shangri-la Plaza)

* Not valid with value sets and accessories. One to a customer, please. Products represented in the visuals are not part of the gift. They are to be purchased separately.

Per DTI-NCR Permit no # 3638, Series of 2003

Exclusively at:

Rustan's
MAKATI • SHANGRI-LA PLAZA • ALABANG • CEBU
Makati, Tel. No. 894 3521
Shangri-La Plaza, Tel. No. 633 4636 local 112
Alabang, Tel. No. 850 5561 local 118
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Shaw Blvd. cor. St. Francis st., Mandaluyong
(at EDSA Crossing behind Shangri-la Plaza, Shaw MRT)

onstage 2nyt

Cowboy Grill	Cowboy Grill	Cowboy Grill
LAS PIÑAS ☎ 801.7644	THINKERS/JOGRAD MR. ROXY	NO ENTRANCE FEE
MABINI ☎ 525.1474	MISSMO PHRYGIAN/HUDYAT	NO ENTRANCE FEE
MALATE ☎ 521.8143	MUSIC CIRCUIT MEN OPPOSE	NO ENTRANCE FEE
NOVALICHES ☎ 936.9757	BLAKDYAK HEADWORKZ/STREETLIFE	I-AXE EVERY TUESDAY OF SEPT. GARDELA EVERY THURSDAY OF SEPT.
BIÑAN ☎ (049)511.7268	PRYZM EMMANUELLE	I-AXE EVERY MONDAY OF SEPT. SEPT.25-BLAKDYAK
TIA MARIA'S	TIA MARIA'S	TIA MARIA'S
JUPITER ☎ 890.4735	SYMPOSIUM FIRST SIGHT	NO ENTRANCE FEE
REMEDIOS ☎ 522.0429	VERSE 2 P R P	NO ENTRANCE FEE
TOMAS MORATO ☎ 371.1473	RHYTHM ACE BRIDGES	NO ENTRANCE FEE
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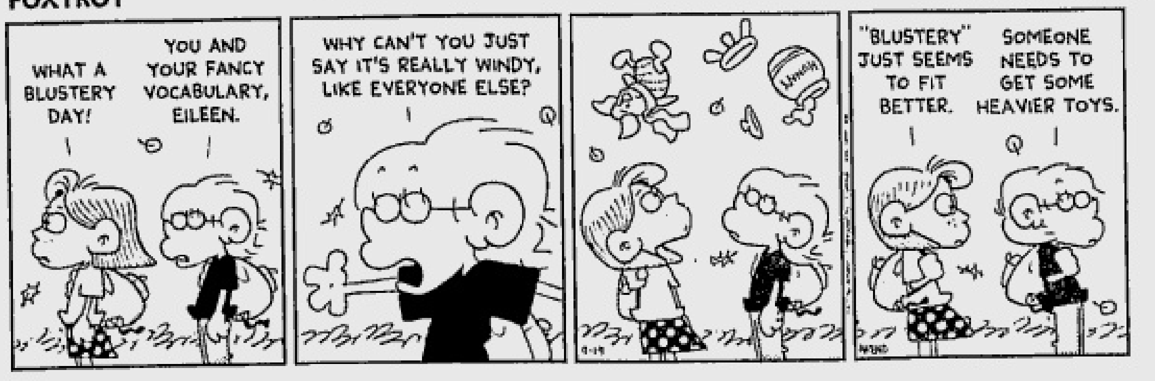
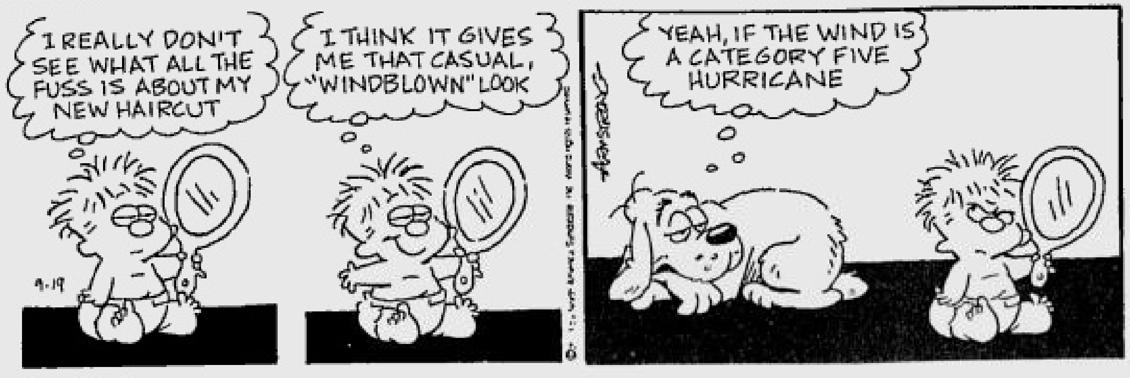
Partyplace SAN FERNANDO, PAMPANGA ☎ (045)961 3360	J DOGG PROJECT	OCT.10-PAOLO SANTOS
FOREST	ORIGIN/PART E EVA (ACOUSTIC) T.M. KALAW COR. PARADE ST. LUNETA PARK, MANILA	FREE PULUTAN EVERY 2 PITCHERS OR 5 BOTTLES OF BEER ☎ 400-7435/525-0514

SEPTEMBER 19 FRIDAY

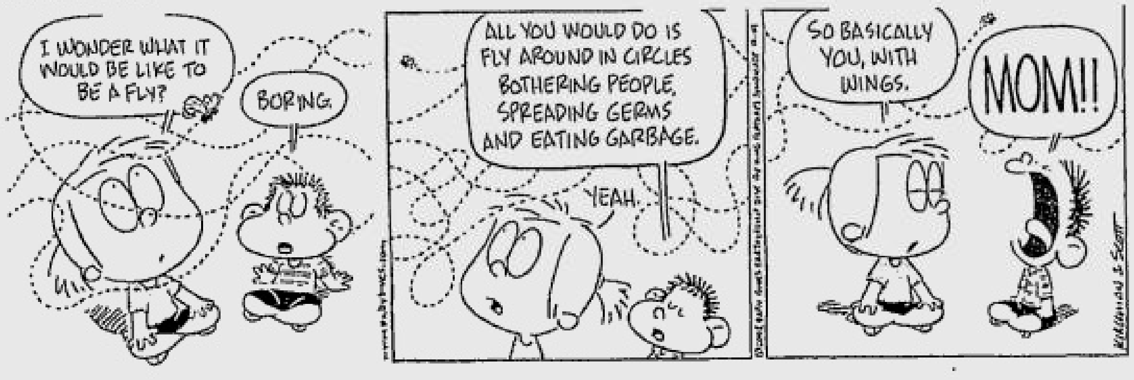
FOXTROT BY BILL AMEND


WHAT A BLUSTERY DAY!
YOU AND YOUR FANCY VOCABULARY, EILEEN.
WHY CAN'T YOU JUST SAY IT'S REALLY WINDY, LIKE EVERYONE ELSE?
"BLUSTERY" JUST SEEMS TO FIT BETTER.
SOMEONE NEEDS TO GET SOME HEAVIER TOYS.

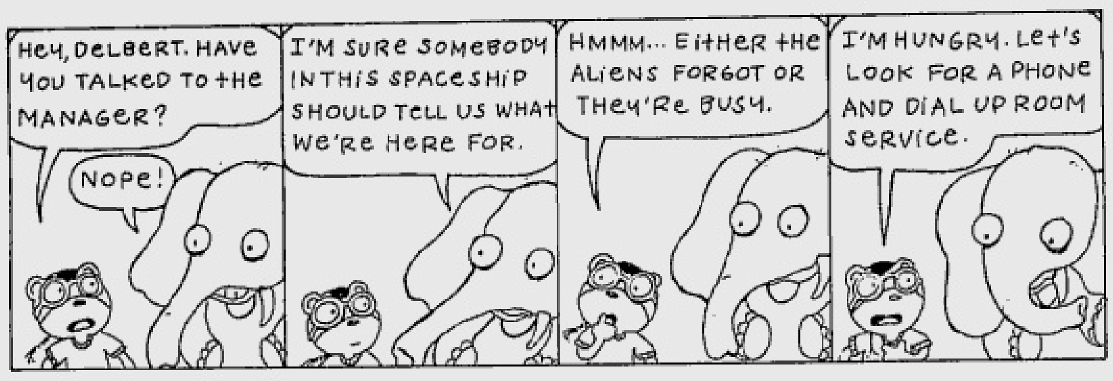
MARVIN BY TOM ARMSTRONG


I REALLY DON'T SEE WHAT ALL THE FUSS IS ABOUT MY NEW HAIRCUT
I THINK IT GIVES ME THAT CASUAL, "WINDBLOWN" LOOK
YEAH, IF THE WIND IS A CATEGORY FIVE HURRICANE
9-19

BABY BLUES BY JERRY SCOTT


I WONDER WHAT IT WOULD BE LIKE TO BE A FLY?
BORING.
ALL YOU WOULD DO IS FLY AROUND IN CIRCLES BOTHERING PEOPLE, SPREADING GERMS AND EATING GARBAGE.
YEAH.
SO BASICALLY YOU, WITH WINGS.
MOM!!

ATOMO AND WEBOY BY LYRA GARCELLANO


Hey, DELBERT. HAVE YOU TALKED TO THE MANAGER?
NOPE!
I'M SURE SOMEBODY IN THIS SPACESHIP SHOULD TELL US WHAT WE'RE HERE FOR.
HMMM... EITHER THE ALIENS FORGOT OR THEY'RE BUSY.
I'M HUNGRY. LET'S LOOK FOR A PHONE AND DIAL UP ROOM SERVICE.

HOROSCOPE

BY FRANCIS DRAKE

YOU BORN TODAY: You have a casual elegance that impresses others. You are often fascinated by beauty. You dress well and have excellent grooming. In your personal life, you're highly organized. You believe that serenity within can be encouraged by external serenity and simplicity. You always display good taste. The year ahead favors marriage, relationships and all social activities.
Birthdate of: Adam West, actor; Joan Lunden, TV journalist; Trisha Yearwood, singer/actress.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19): This is a good day to make improvements to your work environment. You're trying very hard to get better organized. Today, new and bold ideas help you do this.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20): This is a wonderful day to flirt, play and have fun! Do anything that is entertaining for you. Catch a movie, play some sports, make plans to meet friends for a few laughs.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20): This is a good today to deal with real estate matters as well as home and family situations. Profits can be made. Conversations with everyone will be pleasant and optimistic.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22): Sometimes we have Mouse Mind; sometimes we have Eagle Mind. In other words, at times we are focused on details, and at other times we see the big picture.

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22): This is an excellent day to boost your earnings in some way. Because you feel so confident, financially speaking, it is also an excellent day to buy things. (Caution about going overboard.)

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22): A friend has excellent advice for you today. Possibly, you have excellent advice for a friend. Either way, conversations with others are positive, informative and mind-expanding.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): This is an excellent day to talk to bosses and authority figures. You will be surprised at the support you receive. Try it.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): Conversations with someone from a different culture or someone who is far away are likely today. You will probably learn something new that shifts your focus about things.

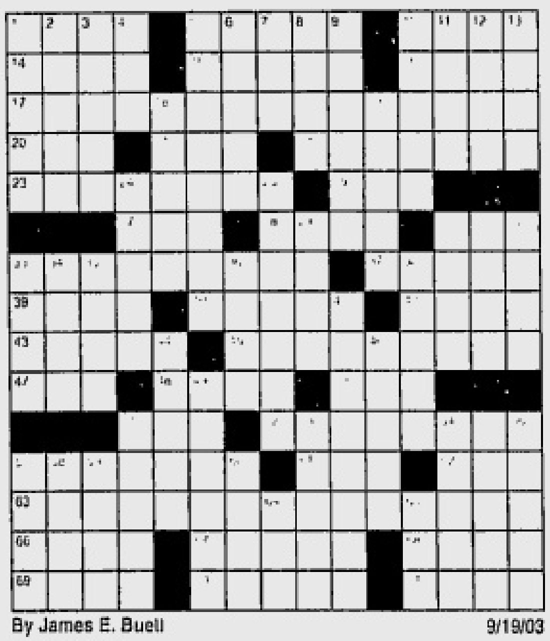
SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): This is a good day to use the resources of others to promote your own career or your good name in some way. Be creative and resourceful in using the assistance of other people today.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19): Conversations with close partners warm your heart today. This is the perfect day to make long-distance travel plans for a future vacation.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18): You will get all of the support and help you need if you want to make changes at work today. Act with confidence.

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20): Plan to have fun today. It's a wonderful day for flirtations, the arts and just goofing off. We all need a little fun now and then.

DAILY CROSSWORD

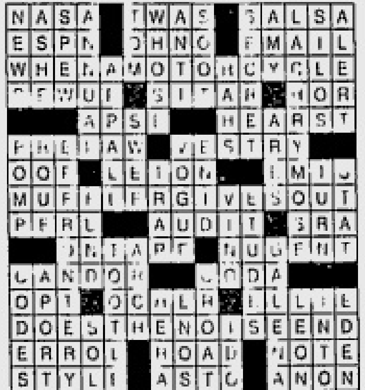


By James E. Buell
Edgewater, FL
9/19/03

ACROSS
1 Return to liquid
5 Venomous snake
10 Air out
14 Mrs. Chaplin
15 Parts of eyes
16 Melville's "Typee" sequel
17 Is left hanging
20 Objective
21 Cries of surprise
22 Flew in place
23 Playground game
26 Divested
27 Sci-fi craft
28 Stagger
30 Hound sound
33 With 45A, goes all out
37 Colander
39 Fashion designer Cassini
40 Skimpy skirts
42 Downpour
43 Knocks dead
45 See 33A
47 Hip dude
48 Prompted
50 Charged atom
51 McKellen of "The Lord of the Rings"
52 In working order
57 Nameless scoundrel
61 BPOE member
62 Steinbeck novel, "Cannery _
63 Snubs
66 Target of Retin-A
67 Kindled again
68 Blunted blade
69 Explorer Heyerdahl
70 Idyllic places
71 Sunset direction

DOWN
1 Aggregate
2 Comic Mandel
3 Inner self
4 Had been
5 Omelet tidbit
6 Dispatch boat
7 Fellows
8 Maine seaport
9 On the beach
10 Pledged
11 Kuwaiti ruler
12 __ of the above
13 Skater Eldredge
18 Nobs
19 Atrocities
24 Broad in the beam
25 Windward Islands nation
29 Lindros of the NHL
30 Yogi or Smokey
31 Zealous
32 Yearnings
33 Anjou cousin
34 Cinder ending?
35 Straight up
36 Intuitive feeling
38 Teheran resident
41 Frying pans
44 Oodles
46 Has a job
49 Up in the air
51 Word with tube or circle
53 Russian revolutionary
54 Feel one's way
55 Garden waterers
56 Nestling noise
57 Sports section fig.
58 Sound of pain
59 River of Tuscany
60 Newspaper page
64 Grand __ Opry
65 Just out

Thursday's Puzzle Solved



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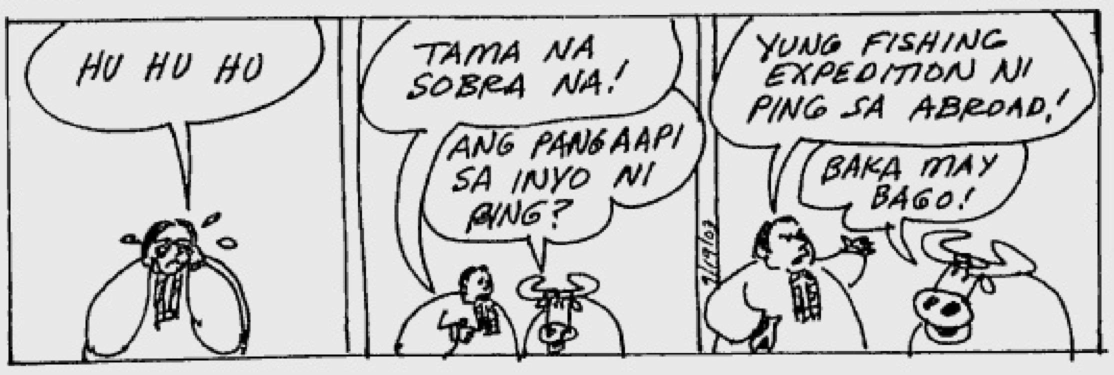
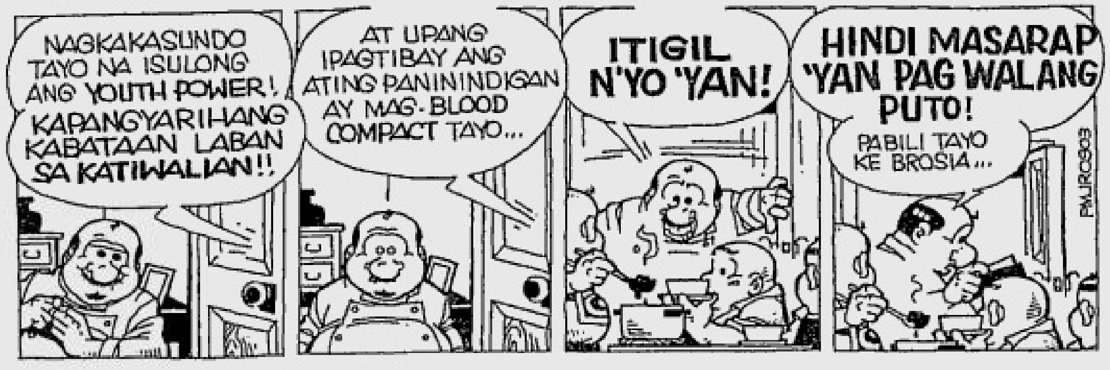
9/18/03

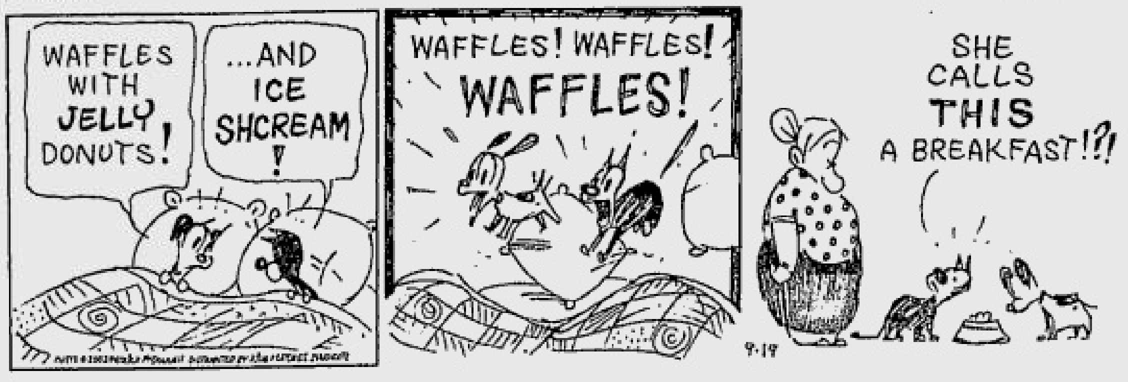
A. LIPIN BY JESS ABRERA


HU HU HO
TAMA NA SOBRA NA!
ANG PANGAAPI SA INYO NI PING?
YUNG FISHING EXPEDITION NI PING SA ABROAD!
BAKA MAY BAGO!
9/19/03

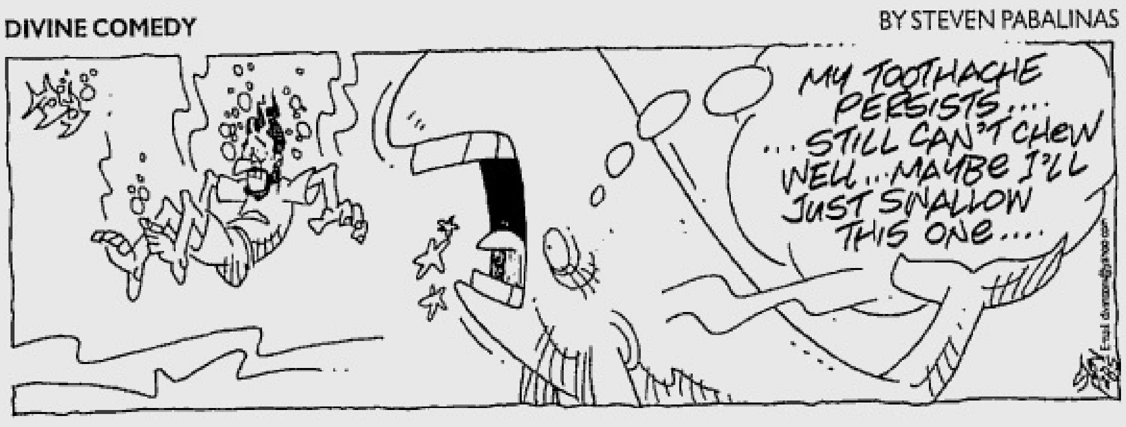
PUGAD BABOY BY P.M. JUNIOR


NAGKAKASUNDO TAYO NA ISULONG ANG YOUTH POWER! KAPANGYARIHANG KABATAAN LABAN SA KATIWALIAN!!
AT UPANG IPAGTIBAY ANG ATING PANININDIGAN AY MAG-BLOOD COMPACT TAYO...
ITIGIL N'YO 'YAN!
HINDI MASARAP 'YAN PAG WALANG PUTO!
PABILI TAYO KE BROSIA...
PMJR0903

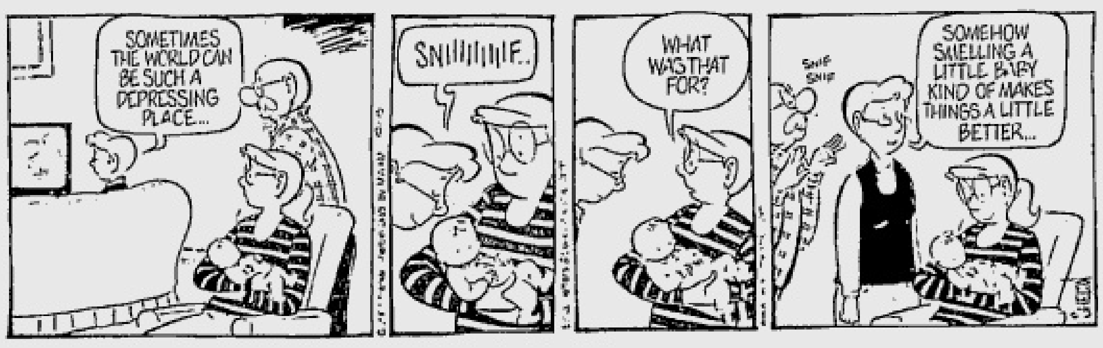
MUTTS BY PATRICK McDONNELL


WAFFLES WITH JELLY DONUTS!
...AND ICE SHCREAM!
WAFFLES! WAFFLES! WAFFLES!
SHE CALLS THIS A BREAKFAST!?!
9-19

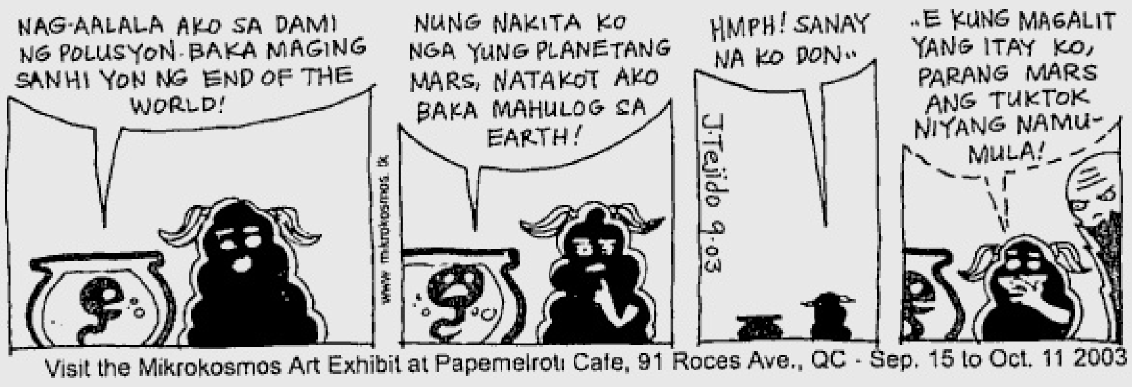
DIVINE COMEDY BY STEVEN PABALINAS


MY TOOTHACHE PERSISTS... ...STILL CAN'T CHEW WELL... MAYBE I'LL JUST SWALLOW THIS ONE...

BEN BY DANIEL SHELTON

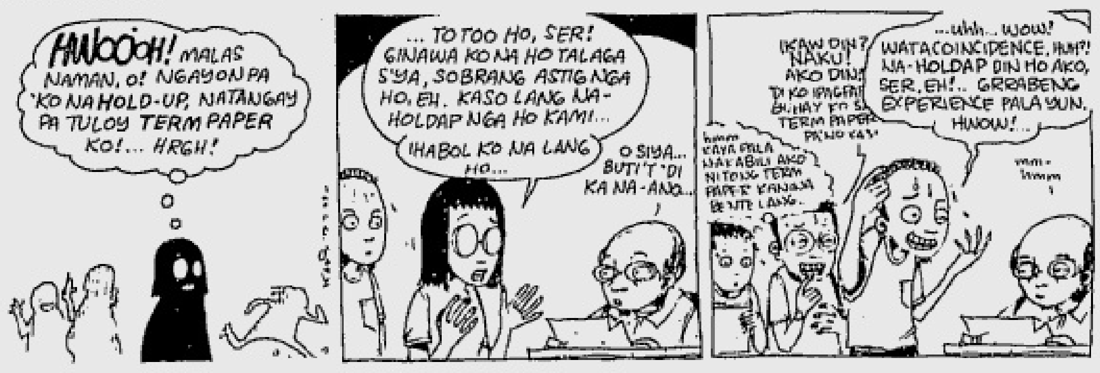

SOMETIMES THE WORLD CAN BE SUCH A DEPRESSING PLACE...
SNIIIIIIIF..
WHAT WAS THAT FOR?
SNIF SNIF
SOMEHOW SMELLING A LITTLE BABY KIND OF MAKES THINGS A LITTLE BETTER...

MIKROKOSMOS BY JOMIKE TEJIDO

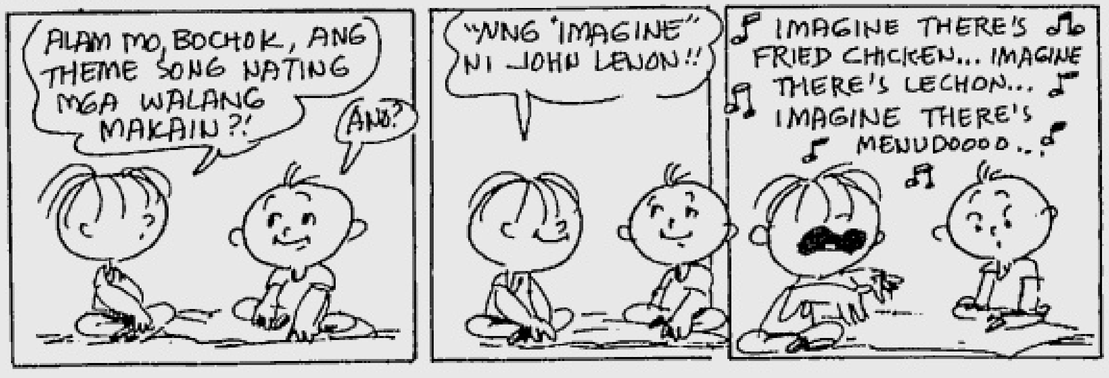

NAG-AALALA AKO SA DAMI NG POLUSYON. BAKA MAGING SANHI YON NG END OF THE WORLD!
NUNG NAKITA KO NGA YUNG PLANETANG MARS, NATAKOT AKO BAKA MAHULOG SA EARTH!
HMPH! SANAY NA KO DON..
..E KUNG MAGALIT YANG ITAY KO, PARANG MARS ANG TUKTOK NIYANG NAMUMULA!
www.mikrokosmos.tk
J. Tejido 9.03

Visit the Mikrokosmos Art Exhibit at Papemelroti Cafe, 91 Roces Ave., QC - Sep. 15 to Oct. 11 2003

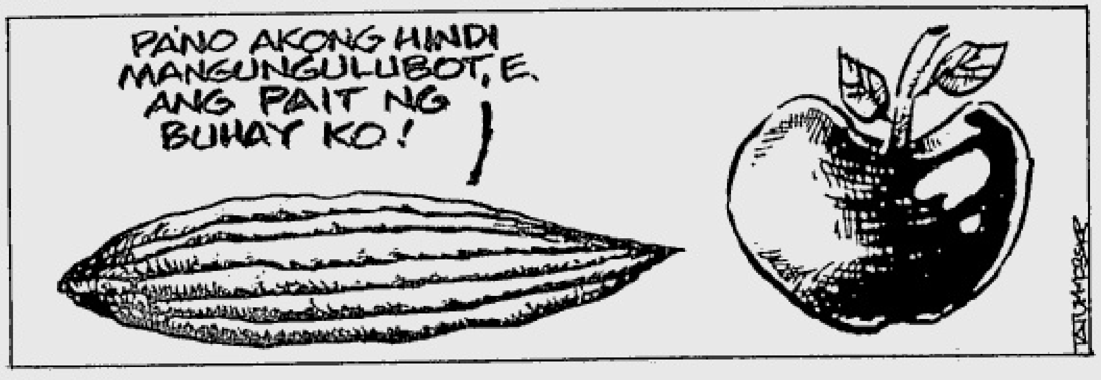
KIKO MACHINE BY MANIX ABRERA


HAAOOOH! MALAS NAMAN, O! NGAYON PA 'KO NAHOLD-UP, NATANGAY PA TULOY TERM PAPER KO!... HRGH!
... TOTOO HO, SER! GINAWA KO NA HO TALAGA S'YA, SOBRANG ASTIG NGA HO, EH. KASO LANG NAHOLDAP NGA HO KAMI...
IHABOL KO NA LANG HO...
O SIYA... BUTI'T 'DI KA NA-ANO...
IKAW DIN? NAKU! AKO DIN!
...uhh... WOW! WATACOINCIDENCE, HM?! NA-HOLDAP DIN HO AKO, SER, EH!.. GRRABENG EXPERIENCE PALA YUN. HWOW!...
mm-hmm

LOVEKNOTS BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


ALAM MO, BOCHOK, ANG THEME SONG NATING MGA WALANG MAKAIN?!
ANO?
"YUNG 'IMAGINE'" NI JOHN LENON!!
IMAGINE THERE'S FRIED CHICKEN... IMAGINE THERE'S LECHON... IMAGINE THERE'S MENUDOOOO..

TULDOK BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING


PA'NO AKONG HINDI MANGUNGULUBOT, E ANG PAIT NG BUHAY KO!

Pockets of chic

BEIGE cargo pants with zips and ruching detailing match this fatigue mesh tank top.

SIDE LINES. Fatigue cargo pants with side lining accent worn with a beige button down sleeveless top

CARGO pants are back!

Out of the barracks, they rule the fashion scene with a new twist. Apart from lots of pockets and rips, comebacking cargo pants has lots of ruching that's very flattering to the legs. They're also worn shorter for more fashion action.

Military matters likewise take on a new style strategy: Cargo pants in fatigue, khaki and black cotton twills are now worn with sexy mesh and knitted tops.

Urban and utilitarian, the new cargo collection is available at the Boutique Square department of all SM stores.

FUN AND FUNCTION. Fatigue cargo pants with ruching, drawstring and pocket details worn with white v-neck spaghetti strapped mesh tank top with buckle accents

'Swan Lake' opens today

BALLET Manila presents "Swan Lake," the third production of its 8th season, a full-length 19th-century Tchaikovsky ballet in three acts, Sept. 19-21 and Sept. 26-28 at the Aliw Theater, Star City, Cultural Center of the Philippines Complex.

The dual role of the enchanted Swan Princess Odette/Odile will be alternately performed by principal ballerina Lisa Macuja and junior principal Elline Damian. Principal danseur Osias Barroso, guest soloist from the Kirov Ballet, Dennis Firsov and senior soloist Eduardo Espejo will do the role of Prince Siegfried. Demi-soloists Mylene Aggabao and Marian Faustino will share the ballerina roles in certain performances.

Call 5255967, 4000292 or 4043086. Tickets to the ballet serve as entrance to Star City and ride-all-you-can gift certificates.

GOINGS ON

BAZAAR. Edsa Shangri-La Hotel presents Angel Sent bazaars on Nov. 15-16 and Dec. 20-21 at its Lower Lobby. Highlights of the bazaars are the Candle Design Awards finalists and Celebrity Bazaaristas. Call 8207879/1570.

BAZAAR. Seasonal Options unveils its latest line of Christmas decor on Sept. 27 and 28, 9 a.m.-7 p.m., in Shop@the Fort at NBC Tent.

CONFAB. The Association of Cities and Towns of Character Philippines Inc. holds its second national conference, ongoing until Sept. 20, in Daet, Camarines Norte.

FESTIVAL. The town of Lobo in Batangas will hold its Anihan Festival on Sept. 22-29. Call 043-1981577 or 0920-9065421.

SHOW. Shangri-La Mall presents Ntwine today at 9 p.m. and Brand New Funk on Sept. 20; Streamline, Sept. 20, at The 5th; and Niche band, Sept. 21, 4:30-5:30 p.m.

TRADE SHOW. DesignBuild 2003 will be held on Sept. 25-28 at The PICC Forum, CCP Complex, Roxas Boulevard, Pasay City. Call 7268664/65 or 7264128 to 30.

FAIR. The International Education Specialists of Makati holds the 15th Career Counseling and Guidance Fair, ongoing until Sept. 20, at the Philippine Trade Training Center, Roxas Boulevard, Pasay City. Call 8191001/1002; fax 8102825; e-mail intered@info.com.ph.

CONCERT. UP's Abelardo Hall Auditorium will hold a dance concert, "Pedro Kusinero," on Sept. 29 and 30 and Oct. 2 and 9. Call 929-6963/920-5301.

BRIDAL FAIR. Edsa Shangri-La Manila stages Wedding Celebrations 2004 at Isla Ballroom and Convention Center on Sept. 21, 10 a.m.-9 p.m. Call 6338888/7500314.

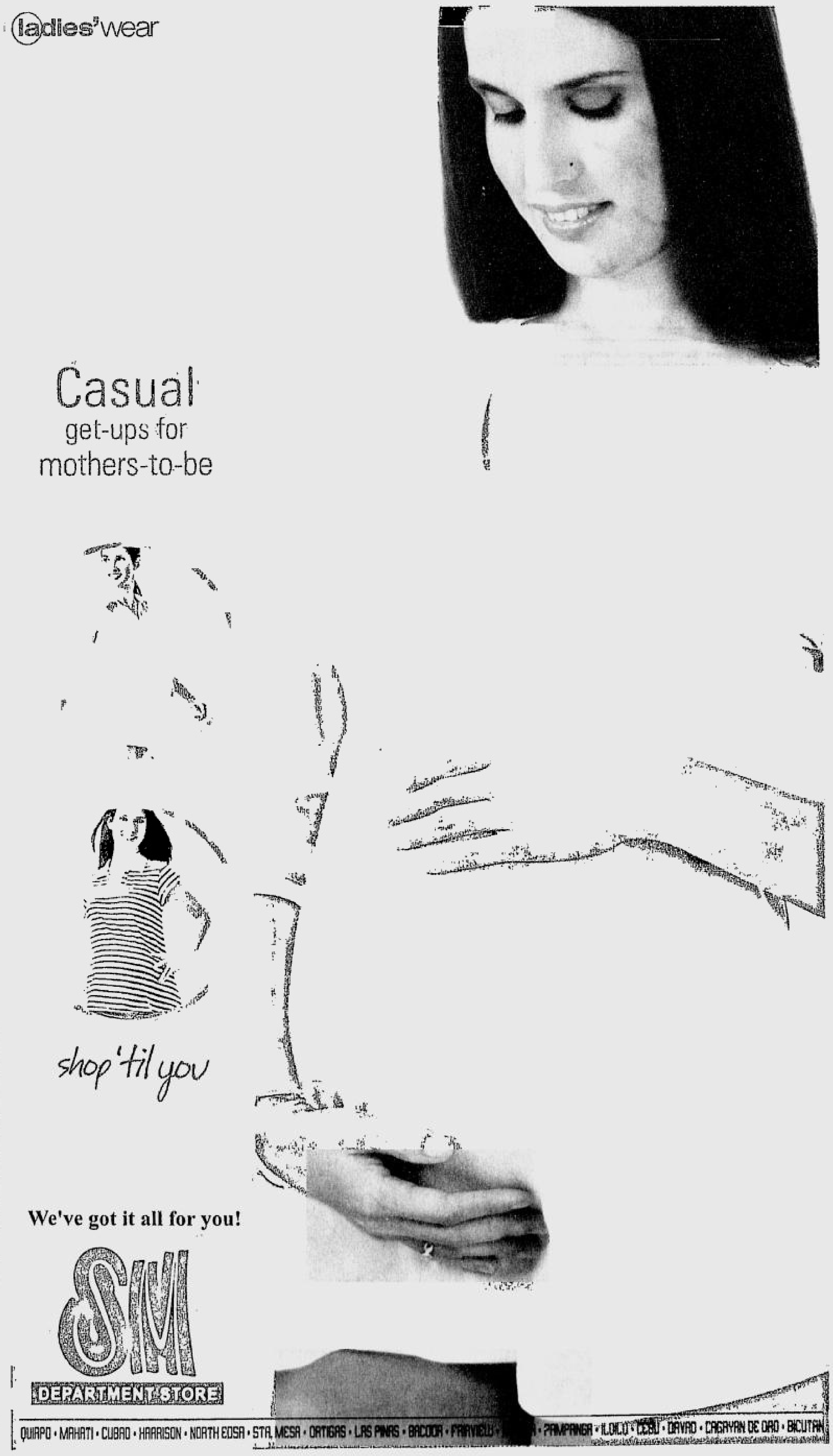
YOGA CLASSES. Centered Yoga founder and director Paul Dallaghan will be in Manila on Sept. 29 for a week-long series of Mysore self-practice and led classes and a three-day Ashtanga Vinyasa Yoga workshop on Oct. 1-4 in Batangas. Call 6218104.

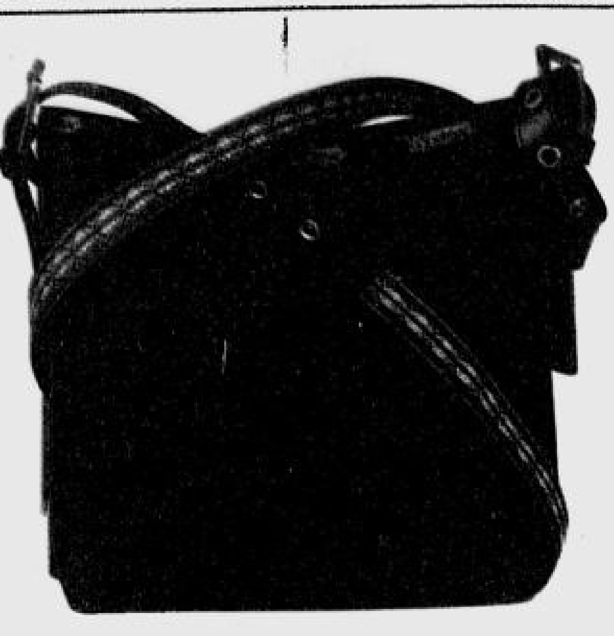
FASHION SHOW. Shangri-La Plaza Mall presents the Chic and Savvy ramp show on Sept. 20, 6 p.m., at its Grand Atrium. Admission is free.

SCHOLARSHIP. The Ben Farrales Foundation 2003 announces the second batch of fashion aspirants who passed and qualified for scholarship. They are Noel Dumanlang from Sampaloc, Manila; Derrick Inway, Baguio City; Laurice Joy Javaluyas, QC; Glenda Pabico, Makati; Conrado Mamiit Jr., Lipa City, Batangas; Ryza Emiliene Lagarde, Makati; and Joanna Lei, San Juan.

FUNDRAISER. Ms Jean Metilla Walker was recently chosen Mrs. Golden Girl 2003. Proceeds of the event went to research projects for kindergartens and the renovation of San Roque Church in Davao Oriental.

THE MIRIAM College Chi Rho Champions invite all Maryknoll/Miriam College alumni to the Chi Rho Ball, a dinner-dance event that will benefit the Miriam College Endowment Fund for Scholarships and Faculty Development and the Marian Auditorium Improvement Project. The event is on Sept. 25, 7 p.m., at NBC Tent, Bonifacio Global City. Photo shows the Chi Rho Ball committee composed of Mary Ann Luis-Borromeo, Dolly Cuesta-Buenaflor, Carmita Francisco, Cecile Basilio-Gutierrez, Babot Aspiras-Oreta, Millie Pineda Salvatierra, Marie Zelie Santos-Tan and Betsy Basa-Tenchavez. The committee is led by Myrna Panlilio and Cecile Huang-Cheng. Call 4335337.


ladies' wear
Casual get-ups for mothers-to-be
shop 'til you
We've got it all for you!
SM DEPARTMENT STORE
QUIAPO • MAKATI • CUBAO • HARRISON • NORTH EDSA • STA. MESA • ORTIGAS • LAS PINAS • BACOOR • FAIRVIEW • PAMPANGA • ILOILO • CEBU • DAVAO • CAGAYAN DE ORO • BICUTAN



A COOL concert bag from Gwen Stefani's Lamb collection

Music Baby Lamb Love Angel
Baby Lamb Love Angel Music

TRENDY Hella Hobo shoulder bag from the Lamb collection of Gwen Stefani

Preventing baldness and caring . . .

From page G1

oily side, because such treatments only seal the dirt in. It's still best to use these products separately.

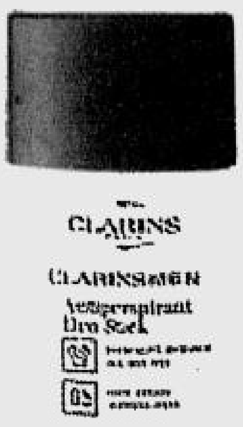
Kérastase has Bain Prevention shampoo, available in leading salons, that removes dirt and oil thoroughly, and even exfoliates the scalp for new healthy skin to emerge. A healthy scalp is essential for healthy hair to grow.

There is also a pack of 10 vials called Aminexil, to be applied to the scalp every day after washing the hair for 10 consecutive days. These vials contain vitamins to strengthen the hair and scalp and help revive dying hair.

I've used the product myself, and yes, my hair has grown significantly thicker, and no longer breaks as easily. My falling hair count has also dropped by more than half.

Other options: VMV Id skincare and shaving set, Neutrogena Skin Clearing line and L'Oreal's Pure Zone Oil and Acne Control line. You may also try Lush's Dr. Peppermint solid shampoo bar.

Clarins is available at Rustan's; Kérastase is sold at leading beauty salons.



MEN'S Deo Stick

CLARINS
CLARINSMEN

SMOOTH Shave

The Young Painters' Annual

Nourishing the Artistic Soul of the Filipino

As part of Metrobank's 41st anniversary celebration, a new batch of promising amateur visual artists is to be feted in simple awarding ceremonies today at Metrobank Plaza. Leading the distinguished line-up of guests during the awarding is the French Ambassador, Her Excellency, Renee Veyret. After the awarding, an exhibit featuring this year's collection of winning works along with other selected entries will be opened. The exhibit at the Metrobank Plaza Lobby will run until October 1.

This year's Board of Judges who went through almost 700 entries from all over the country was headed by Fr. Gabriel Casal, Chairman of the Manila Archdiocesan Commission for Culture and Director of the Archdiocesan Museums and Archives. Also in the Board were artists Nemi Miranda, Jr. and Lao Lianben, visual artist and professor at the Department of Art Studies in UP Diliman, Brenda Fajardo, and art curator Bobi Valenzuela.

Including five past winners of the Competition who were named this year, a total of fifteen past YPA awardees have so far received the Thirteen Artists Award from the Cultural Center of the Philippines.

The complete list of winners this year is as follows: oil category, Julius Anthony M. del Castillo, 1st place; Leslie E. de Chavez, 2nd place; Johann M. Padiernos, 3rd place; honorable mentions Marnie S. Corpus, Simplicio G. dela Cruz, and Eufemio A. Rasco IV; finalists Allan Jay R. Balisi, De Hann Rey F. Ballesteros, Rodrigo R. Clapano, Jigger P. Cruz, Cristian A. Espiritu, Rommer A. Fajardo, Stanley Rey C. Gallermo, Carlo A. Gernale and Rolando S. Gumban. Water media category, Teodoro M. Peñaflor, 1st place; Roldan C. Ventura, 2nd place; Pacholo U. Carmelotes, 3rd place; honorable mentions Randie M. Gutierrez and Salvador C. Sierra; finalists Darby Vincent A. Alcoseba, Roderick d.S. Cruz, Rick L. Hernandez, Vince Darwin F. Jumalon, Wilfredo N. Offemaria Jr., Christopher E. Pasco, Michael A. Po, Grace V. Taller, and Paulo R. Vinluan.

ADVT.

Metrobank Foundation, Inc. 20th Young Painters' Annual National Painting Competition

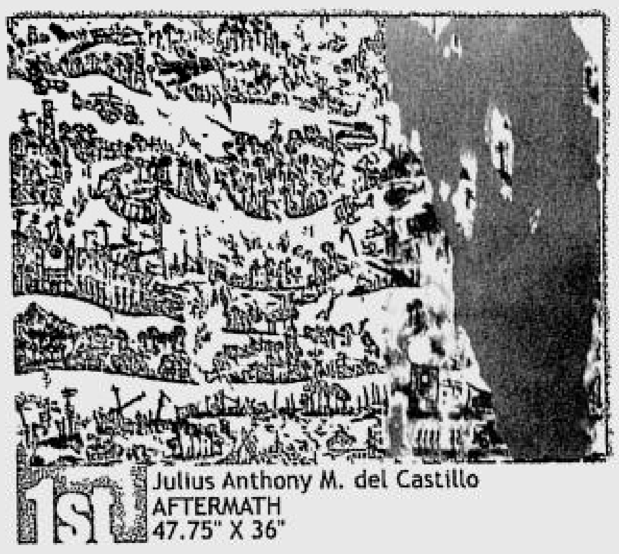
WINNERS

Cited by the Public Relations Society of the Philippines as a "...Competition that generously assists fledgling artist in gaining artistic recognition and providing encouragement to budding painters in realizing their goal," the Metrobank Foundation's Young Painters' Annual once again honors this year's finest crop of amateur visual artists who emerged winners in the YPA National Painting Competition. Joining our distinguished roster of awardees, who include some of the country's up and coming young painters, these winners stood out from more than 600 amateur visual artists who joined the competition. As we salute each of our winners, we pay tribute to their talent and bid them well on their journey towards greater artistic excellence.

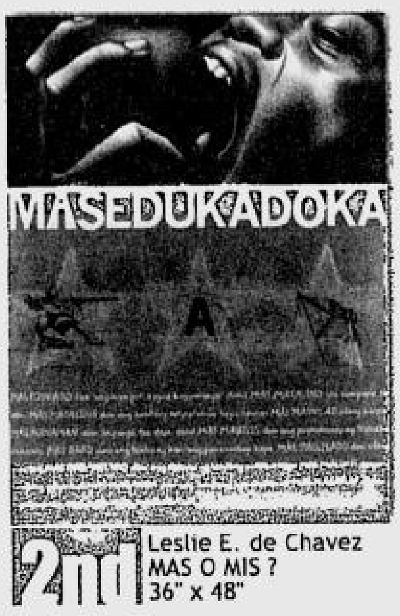
Exhibit will run from September 22 to October 1, Monday to Friday, 9:30 am - 3:00 pm at the Bank Lobby, Ground Floor, Metrobank Plaza, Sen. Gil Puyat Ave., Makati City.

Art Rush

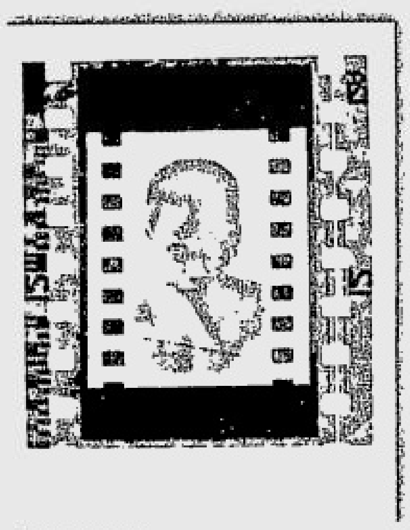
OIL-based medium on canvas



1st Julius Anthony M. del Castillo
AFTERMATH
47.75" X 36"



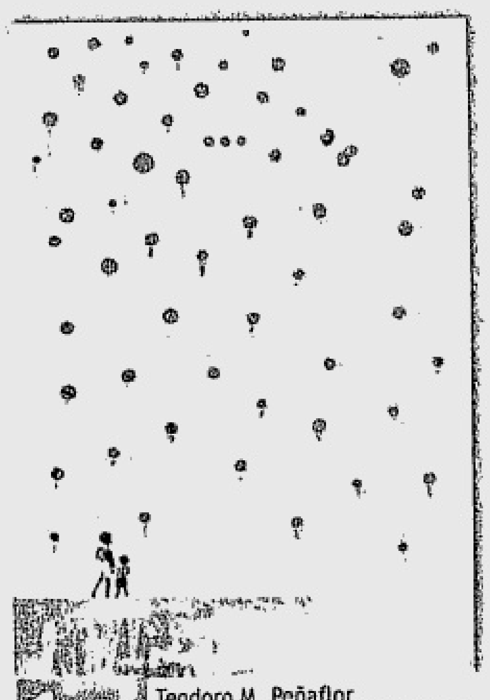
2nd Leslie E. de Chavez
MAS O MIS ?
36" x 48"



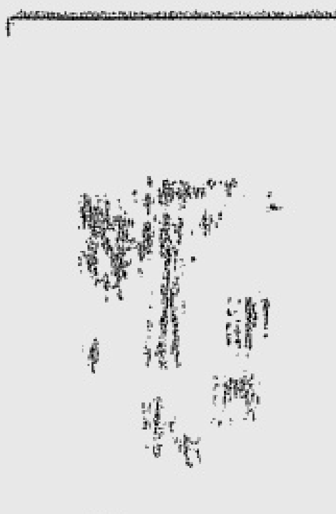
3rd Johann M. Padiernos
POSITIVE
36" x 48"

Honorable Mentions: Marnie S. Corpus | Simplicio G. Dela Cruz | Eufemio A. Rasco IV

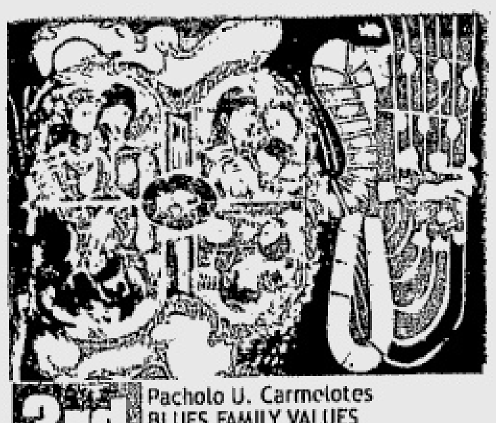
WatER media on paper



1st Teodoro M. Peñaflor
UNMINDFUL VISUAL POLLUTION
27" x 39".



2nd Roldan C. Ventura
WIRED
24" x 36"



3rd Pacholo U. Carmelotes
BLUES FAMILY VALUES
48" x 36"

Honorable Mentions: Randie M. Gutierrez | Salvador C. Sierra

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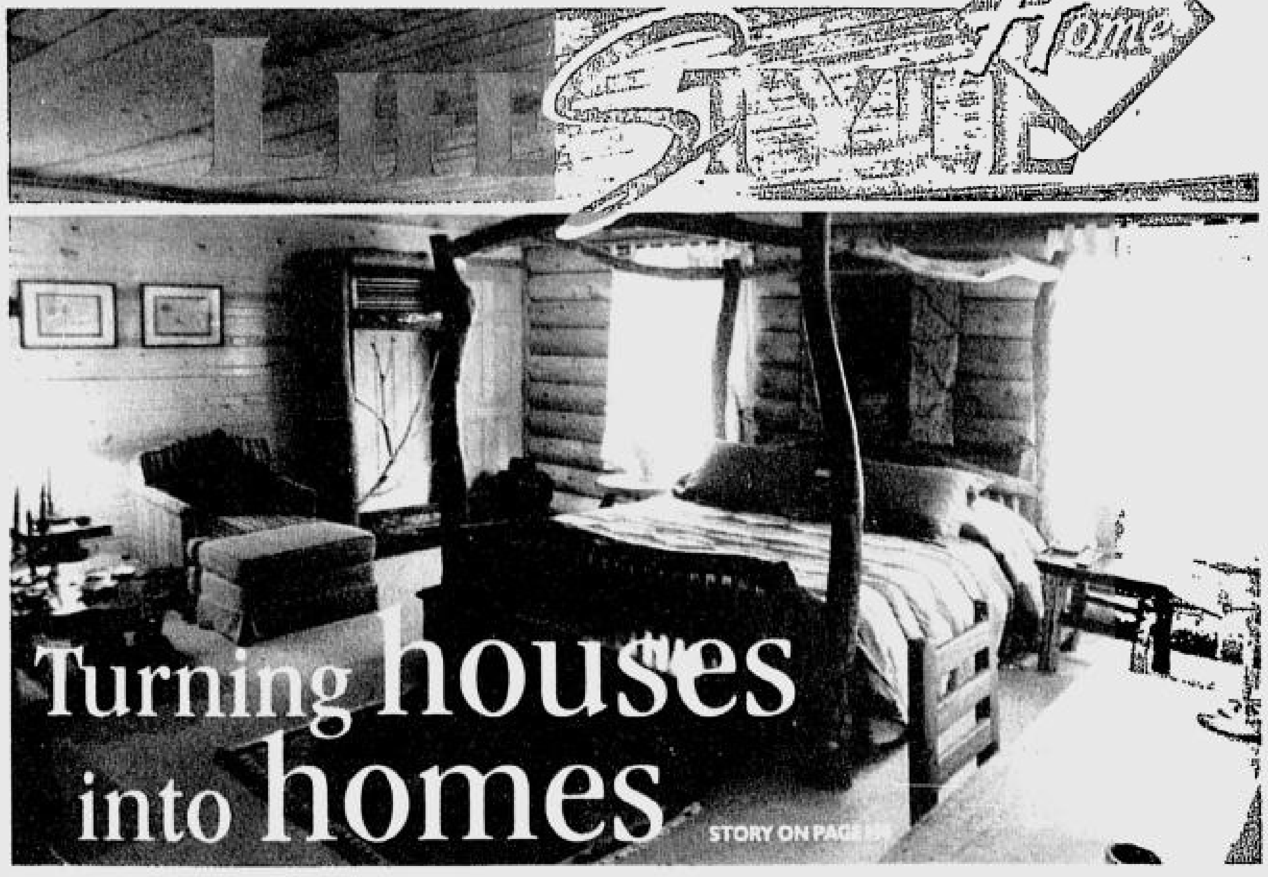
LIFESTYLE Home



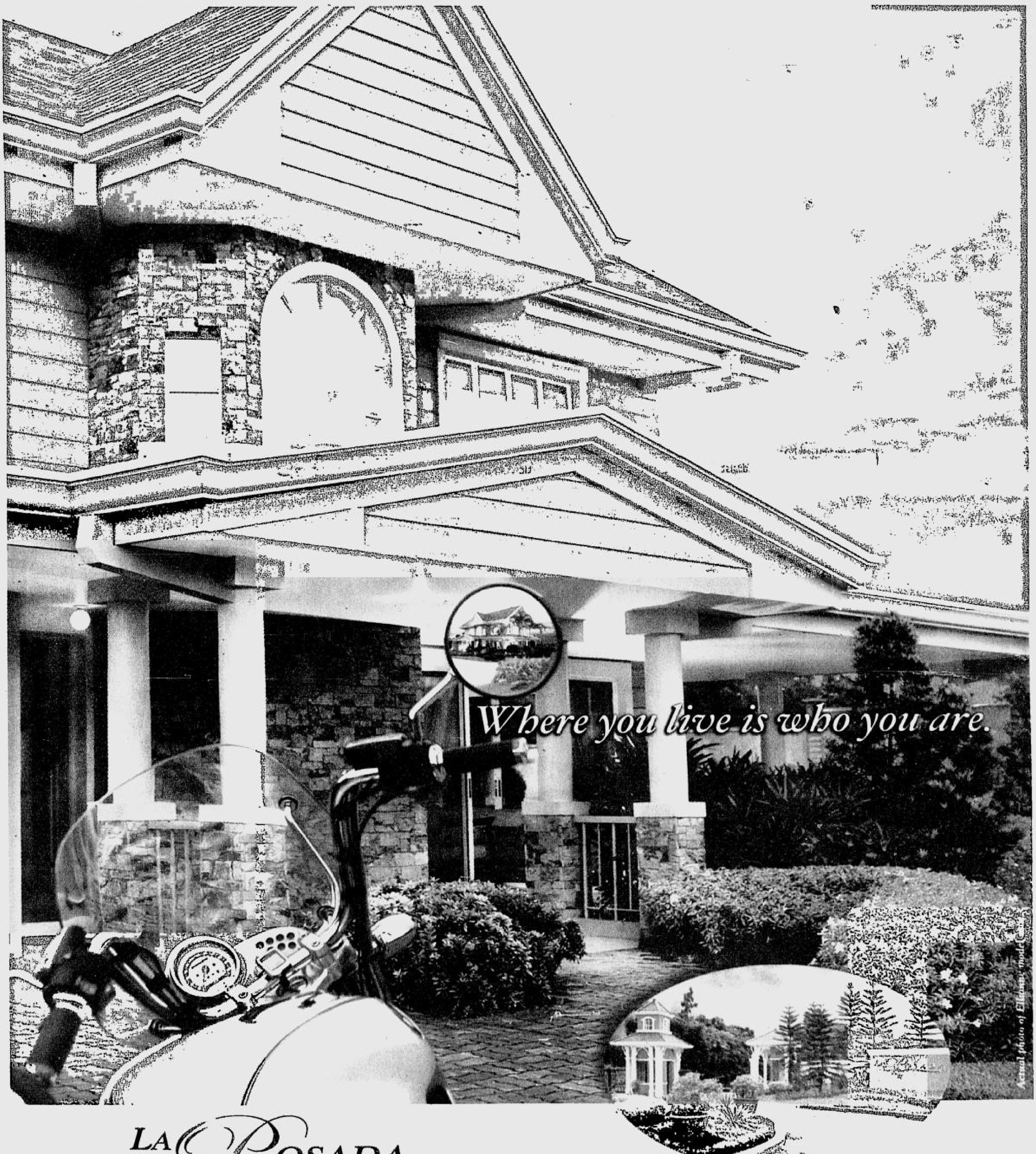
Turning houses into homes

STORY ON PAGE

this WEEK
@ SM SUPERMALLS

LEONARDO
MALL TOUR SERIES
PRESENTS
Ms. Kris Aquino
September 20

SM City NORTH EDSA
4pm
Entertainment Plaza,
Lower Ground Floor


Where you live is who you are.

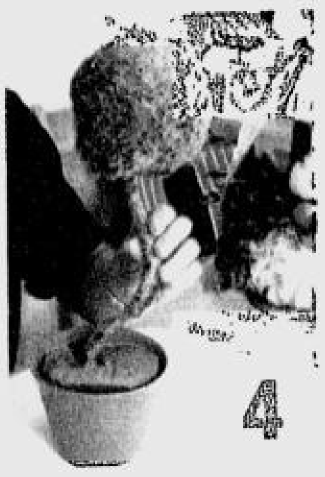
LA POSADA

Your home says a lot about you. That's why La Posadà at Brittany Bay, Sucat is the choice of those who have arrived. A wonderfully master-planned community just 15 minutes from Makati and 10 minutes from Alabang. Charming Neo-Victorian houses solidly built on wide lots. Designed to satisfy your exacting standards and reflect your good taste, inside and outside. And when it comes to details, you'll be pleased to know they include porches that are perfect for relaxing on a lazy afternoon.

We and the little Michael Owens invite you to the exclusive kick off of the 1st Brittany Football Cup, Sept. 21, 10am-5pm.

Interested? Contact 850-3084 / 850-6986 • www.brittany.com.ph
Getting there is easy: Take the Sucat Exit of South Luzon Expressway. From the Sucat Interchange, take the East Service Road and it's only 50 meters from there. Just look for the La Posada billboard.

Brittany
CORPORATION



PLANT the twig on the pot with floral foam. Insert the pineapple leaves on top of the styrofoam ball. Set aside.

PAINT each shell with yellow poster color and leave to dry for two hours. Set aside.

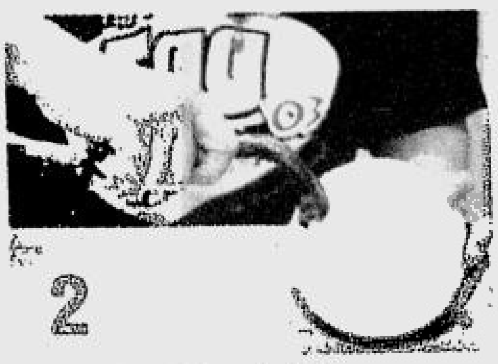
USING white glue, fill the pot with dried moss.

COAT the edge of the shell with glue.

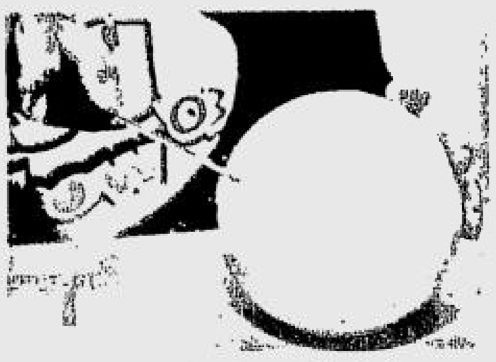
Egg-citing idea

Text by Vangie Baga-Reyes
Photos by Roger Carpio

COAT the ball with white glue and stick the moss around it.



INSERT the twig into the hole.



USING an ice pick, pierce a hole in the styrofoam ball.

IMAGINE this: You just bought a whole tray of eggs and as you were about to put it in the refrigerator you suddenly slipped, sending the eggs flying in different directions.

Well, you may not have the eggs the way you want them, but you don't have to cry over them. Instead, turn them, particularly the shells, into interesting craft pieces.

You will be surprised at the many uses for the unfortunate eggs. One possibility is this easy-to-make pineapple topiary made of recycled egg shells.

CRAFTS

"Decorative eggs aren't just for Easter," says Melinda Quiogue, crafts instructor at NegoSkwela Livelihood and Technology Training Center. "They say eggs are a symbol of good luck, so they are a favorite all year round. Everyone is always amazed when they see decorative eggs. A gift or decoration from eggs is very quick and easy to make."

The egg topiary is cute as table toppers, decorations for window or any part of the house that needs a little cheer. It is fun to make and lasts a long time with a little care.

Quiogue (tels. 4555280 and 0916-4371965) demonstrates how easy it is to create this simple, cheerful house decor on a limited budget.

To start the project, you will need the following materials: egg shells, a small pot of your choice (ceramics, stoneware, earthenware or glazed), floral foam, glue gun, glue sticks, ice pick, white glue, a pair of pliers, G.I. wire, a five-inch styrofoam ball, poster color (yellow), paint brush, dried moss, crazy vine or a twig, plastic leaves and fruits.

The crazy vines or twigs can be bought from garden stores. For a more natural look, apply a coat of varnish on the vine or twig and let it dry for a few hours.

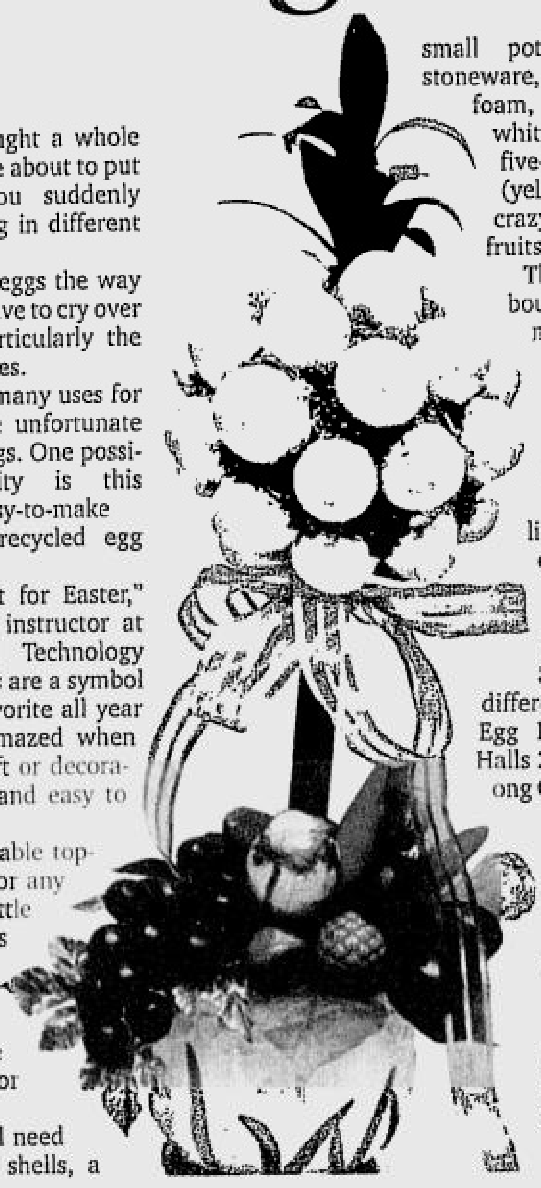
Styrofoam ball, plastic leaves and fruits are available in Divisoria and department stores.

The egg topiary will cost you a little less than half of the commercial kind, which usually costs P800-P1,000. If you make your own, Quiogue says, you'll spend only P300 or less.

See for yourself a showcase of the different egg crafts at the 3rd Philippine Egg Festival Sept. 19-21, Megatrade Halls 2 and 3, SM Megamall, Mandaluyong City.

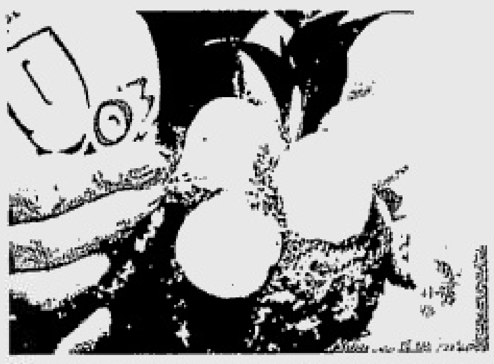
Among the highlights of the event are the Egg Museum and the unveiling of the world's largest omelet.

For suggestions, e-mail the author at vbaga@inquirer.com.ph



PINEAPPLE topiary from recycled egg shells

ATTACH shells to the moss-covered styrofoam ball, pushing down firmly. Glue egg shells all the way around the styrofoam.



COVER the gaps between the eggs with moss using the white glue.

ARRANGE fruits and other accents around the trunk. Add ribbons before you finish the assembly.

2 rights activists killed by vigilantes in Or. Mindoro
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
SARS-hit village isolated
Second suspected SARS death reported

The Good News

[illegible]

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

From classic to Zen

OVER 10 lifestyle vignettes—from living room to bedroom settings—are included in the current In Fusion exhibit by Blims Fine Furniture.

Each vignette by Leo Almeria of the Philippine Institute of Interior Designers is a break away from traditional design executions, "fusing" elements from various design approaches such as oriental, Victorian, Zen, contemporary, and classic, into innovative home settings.

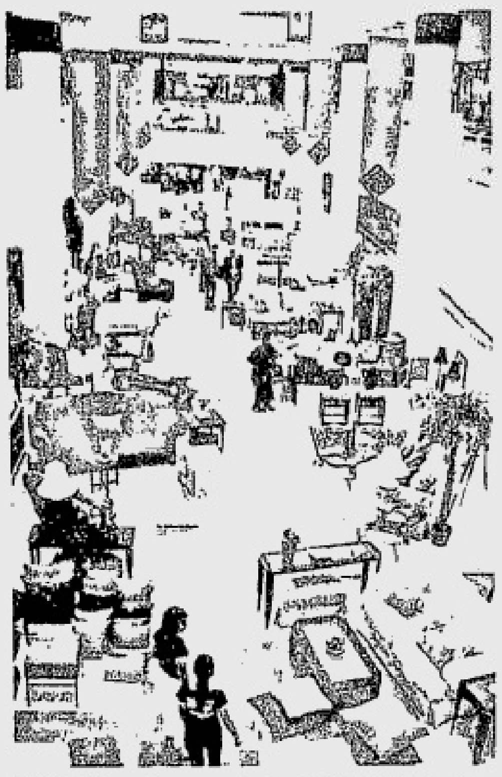
The vignettes showcase Simmons and La-Z-Boy, two internationally-renowned US furniture brands exclusively offered by Blims.

Philips, one of the country's leaders in home entertainment, comes in as the Exclusive Appliance Partner of Blims in the exhibit, providing state of the art home entertainment systems that complete the lifestyle settings.

In Fusion exhibit is ongoing at the Ground Floor, Glorietta 3, Ayala Center, Makati until Sept. 21.

YOUNG managers enjoy the style and comfort of the East Meets West vignette: (from left) Blims marketing services manager Stephanie Salazar, Philips account manager Raymond Igao and Blims assistant to the president Oliver Dinglasan

LEISURELY admiring the vignettes are (from left) Philips president and CEO Med Mateo and Blims president Samie Lim.



BLIMS transforms a strategic 250-sq m area of Glorietta 3 into a haven for home lovers.

LA-Z-BOY export sales manager Luis Villafranca with Blims EVP Carrie Lim and La-Z-Boy product manager Arnold Adriano

Tribute to design masters

KUYSEN Bath Gallery pays tribute to top architects and interior designers in "Kuysen Living by Design," a one-of-a-kind lifestyle photo exhibit until Sept. 22 at the lobby of Glorietta 4, Ayala Center, Makati City.

Featured are the designs and interiors of Leo Almeria, Chito Antonio, Ramon Antonio, Ed Calma, Carunungan & Partners, Edgar Chan, Heidi Chu, Jerry Chua/Argee Hubilla, Johnny Chua, Alex Co, engineer Jose "Dyowi" Contreras, Gil Coscolluela, Wilma Dee-Reyes, Arlen de Guzman, Tina Periquet Galicia, Jonathan Gan, GCG Gilbert Gargantos, Edwin Gumila, Budji Layug, Roberto Lilles, Gilbert Lui, Antonio Carlos Mendoza, J. Antonio Mendoza, Pam Mendoza, Arkicad Projects/Dindo Mercado, Rolando Mercado, Lynette Ngo, Rameses Orenza, Impy Pilapil, Rosalio Restubog Jr., Anthony and Blanca Senador, Jim Tan, Wilbert Tan, Alfredo Wieneke III and Joey Yupangco.

Call Kuysen Bath Gallery at 7295530.

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Per DTI-NCR Permit # 2435 Series of 2003

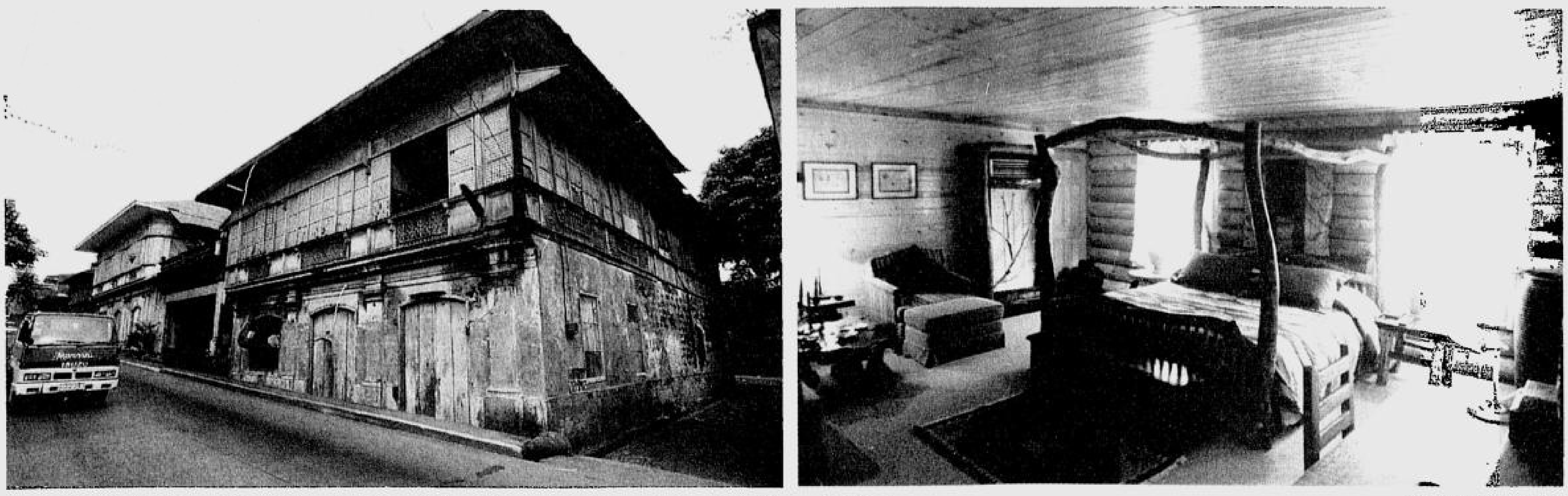
Activities:

Magic Show by Pengo
Sept. 20, 3 p.m., RDS Metro East
21, 3 p.m., RDS Galleria

Mascot Visits by Nestle
Sept. 20, 3 p.m., RDS Dasmariñas
21, 3 p.m., RDS Metropolis
Sept. 27, 3 p.m., RDS Navaliches
28, 3 p.m. RDS Metro East

Camera • Minnies & Mimi • Tender Luv • Ainon / Pengo • Kids Paradise • Morning Bell • Kids Basix • Moose Gear • Farlin • Soen Bebe
Piyo-piyo • Hello Dolly • Earth Tones • First Years • Guess? • New Baby • Baby Magic • Enervon Bright • Drypers

Robinsons Galleria | Robinsons Place Manila, Novaliches, Imus, Dasmariñas, Sta. Rosa, Cebu, Bacolod, Iloilo | Robinsons Metro East | Robinsons Starmills Pampanga
Robinsons Town Mall Los Baños | Tutuban Center | Starmall Shaw | Metropolis Star Alabang | Waltermart Sta. Rosa, Gen. Trias | Nepo Mall Pampanga



PAST AND PRESENT. A crumbling old house in Taal (top left) and the master bedroom of a log cabin in Tagaytay Highlands.

PHOTOS: JIM GUIAO PUNZALAN

Turning houses into homes

By Alex Y. Vergara

As if building a house isn't hard enough, everybody knows that turning a house into a home that truly reflects one's personality and lifestyle is even harder.

Through DesignBuild 2003, events organizer Convex International seeks to address a would-be homeowner's full range of concerns by gathering foremost names in the fields of real estate, architecture, construction, interior design and even landscaping in one place.

DesignBuild 2003, slated from Sept. 25-28 at the PICC Forum on Roxas Boulevard, is said to be the first exhibit of its kind to feature products and services needed in building a home—from finding the right and affordable location to various means of financing it.

"Past exhibits including ours were geared more toward industrial users," says Agnes Hechanova-Escalante, president of Convex International, a company that has been into events organizing for the past 17 years. "Although they were able to address a host of concerns, such shows often left end users more confused. We hope to improve on this by bringing everybody together in one event."

DesignBuild 2003 is said to be the first exhibit of its kind to gather under one roof everything you need to build a home

AGNES Hechanova-Escalante, president of Convex International

Beside end users, the show, which took Convex International almost eight months to organize, also seeks to reach out to architecture and interior design students by exposing them to various designs and trends.

Visitor attractions include creative and cost-effective product showcases such as modern structures and interiors utilizing intelligent use of space, and careful selection of materials and construction methods. The exhibit will also feature talks by seasoned architects and veterans in the real estate industry (call Convex International at tel. 7264128 to 30 for details).

"Perhaps one of the best parts," says Hechanova-Escalante, "is that we'll be raffling off a house to a lucky visitor at the end of the exhibit."

Entrance to DesignBuild 2003, as well as consultancy services to be provided by the Hubilla Design Group, will be free of charge. Led by patriarch Jose Ma. "Johnny" Hubilla, the family is composed of architects, interior designers and landscape artists.

Aside from their credentials, members of the Hubilla family are said to represent what DesignBuild 2003 aims to convey: Traditional and modern trends in architecture and interior design as well as integrated and diverse approaches in construction and design.

Bygone era

To underscore its message, DesignBuild 2003 recently hosted a media tour of old and contemporary houses in Taal and Tagaytay, particularly log cabins and Asian-inspired homes at the gated Tagaytay Highlands. The houses, however, were either too antiquated or too posh to reflect the concerns of DesignBuild 2003's mainstream market.

The 19th-century homes of Leon Apacible and Melchora Aquino in Taal are clearly products of a bygone era. Both structures have been converted into museums, and were thus saved from the dustbin of history.

Tagaytay Highlands' log cabins, on the other hand, clearly pander to Filipinos' undying penchant for the "stateside" feel as seen in the use of heavy furniture pieces, fireplaces, abstract tapestries, trophies of lifeless animals and chandeliers pieced together from deer antlers. They may be from another world, but like some houses in the United States, these structures are also too homogenous for comfort.

These extreme examples hopefully aren't reflective of what DesignBuild 2003 aims to advance. "We expect to address concerns ranging from the low-cost to the high-end," says Hubilla, who has also organized an ongoing furniture and interior design show at the Shangri-La Plaza mall dubbed as "Spaces and Styles."

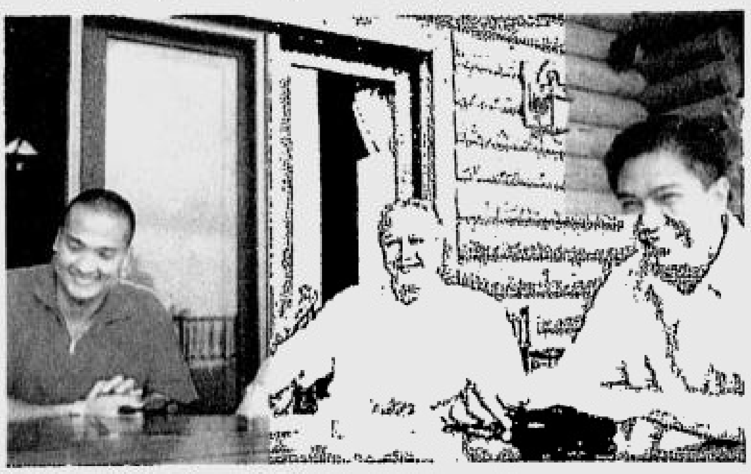
The Hubillas are highly qualified to dispense advice, says Hechanova-Escalante, since they have been involved in projects here and abroad that reflect these very concerns. Aside from big projects they have done in the United States, Hong Kong and Germany, the company has also been involved in designing several low-cost housing communities in Cavite.

Despite the current economic slump, Hubilla remains optimistic that the construction industry will soon experience a turnaround. Surprisingly, interior design is one industry that has managed to do well despite the hard times.

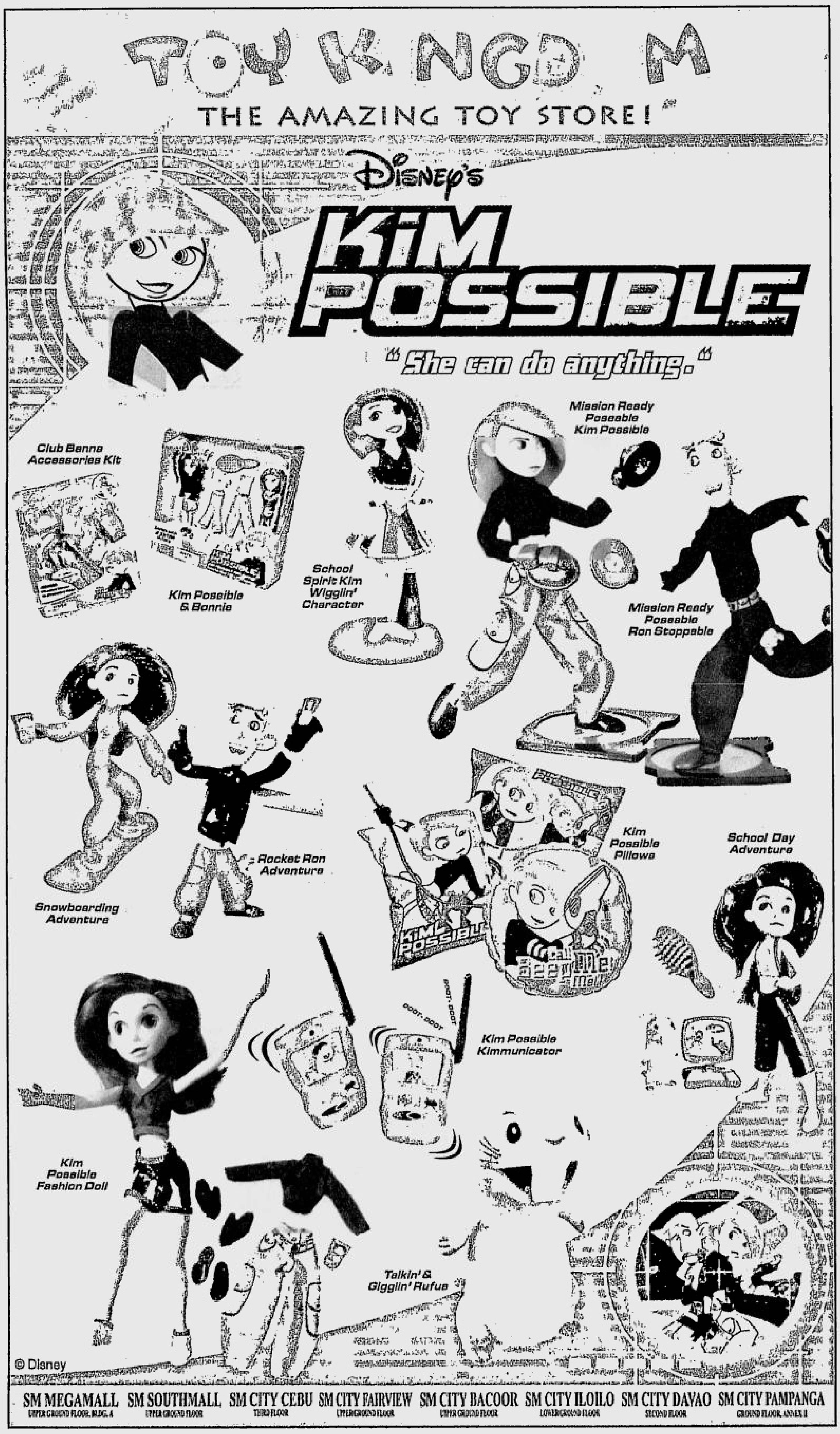
"Instead of having new houses constructed," he says, "people find it cheaper to refurbish their existing homes. We're also experiencing a growing demand for scaled-down furniture pieces due to the growing trend toward condo living."

And unlike before when everything was imported, cheap but quality construction materials can now be bought locally—and hopefully, through DesignBuild 2003, under one roof.

E-mail the author at avergara@inquirer.com.ph



THE HUBILLAS, from left, Franco, Johnny and Argee



SM MEGAMALL UPPER GROUND FLOOR, BLDG. A
SM SOUTHMALL UPPER GROUND FLOOR
SM CITY CEBU THIRD FLOOR
SM CITY FAIRVIEW UPPER GROUND FLOOR
SM CITY BACOOR UPPER GROUND FLOOR
SM CITY ILOILO LOWER GROUND FLOOR
SM CITY DAVAO SECOND FLOOR
SM CITY PAMPANGA GROUND FLOOR, ANNEX II